

Corporate peer challenge information report for Sunderland City Council



Written by LGA Research from Local Government Association

LG Inform

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This is a report giving background information to support Local Government Association facilitated corporate peer challenges. The report includes demographic information about the area and various key performance measures related to the council.

Currently this report displays metrics related to Sunderland City Council, including finance, housing, health and wellbeing, economic prosperity, education, children's services, adults social care, community safety and roads. These are compared with the average for All single tier and county local authorities in North East. Please use the modifiers at the top of the report to select another authority or comparison group.

In two-tier areas, some of the charts will not contain data, if the council is not responsible for that service.

The metrics in the charts below are taken from various published national data collections: source information for each metric is listed under the chart. For a more detailed view of the data in the chart, click on the link in the source underneath it. All data is shown as it appears in the source publication; if your chosen authority doesn't feature in one of the charts, this is because the value was either missing from the original publication, is suppressed due to disclosure rules of the publication source or, as outlined above, is not responsible for the service.

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Summary of Sunderland

Sunderland has a total population of **288,606** residents. **19.7%** of the population are aged under 18, and **20.7%** of the population are aged 65 and over. At the last Census **5.4%** of the population are from a black or minority ethnic population, and **7.1%** of the population described themselves as non white UK (i.e. not white British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish, or Welsh). **0.5%** of the population report that they cannot speak English well or at all.

According to the indices of multiple deprivation 2019 (IMD) Sunderland is ranked **22** out of 326 authorities in England, with a ranking of 1 being the most deprived. IMD combines information across seven Domains: IMD combines information across seven domains (Income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation, and crime) to provide a measure of relative deprivation for all areas in England. **24.3%** of children in Sunderland live in poverty. This is based on the IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2019. According to the latest Department for Work and Pensions figures, there are an estimated total of **17,673** children in Sunderland living in families in relative low income.

41.1% of children in Sunderland achieved 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs in 2024/25 (academic). This compares with **45.2%** for England. **6.4%** of working age people in Sunderland are unemployed, compared with **4.2%** for England as a whole. The median weekly wage for employees living in Sunderland is **£655.00**. This compares with an England wage of **£770.00**.

Finance

The charts below show information about council finances. They provide contextual information on local authority funding, the constraints they face and their overall financial resilience.

The first two charts show data about council reserves.

Reserves exist because councils are responsible for setting and managing their own budgets and for forward planning, which means they have to prepare for future eventualities. The ability to hold reserves means councils are not under pressure to spend money during a single financial year in order to get it used up – it can be carried forward into the following year. The reserves represent amounts carried forward from one year to the next.

Councils hold reserves for three main purposes:

- To provide for financial risks, so that any unbudgeted future events can be funded without the need for immediate cuts in services. This is the equivalent of household savings set aside 'for a rainy day'.
- To set aside funding for future projects. Not everything the council wants or needs to do can start immediately and some programmes take more than one year. Reserves enable councils to set money aside to ensure these priorities can be funded.
- Because funding has been provided for specific purposes - often by central government. This can be called 'ringfencing'. The money can only be used for that purpose and, unless it can be spent immediately, it needs to be set aside for later.

Councils often ' earmark ' reserves for specific purposes, or have those purposes decided for them (in the case of ringfenced money). They also leave a proportion of reserves 'unallocated' or 'non-ringfenced' because some financial risks cannot be foreseen and money needs to be kept aside for these eventualities.

It is largely up to councils how much they keep in reserves and how much they earmark. Councils may therefore have different approaches to how they distinguish between ' earmarked ' and 'unallocated' reserves. The level of a council's reserves will also depend upon its needs, the risks it faces and what it wants to do. For example, a council with ambitious plans may have higher risk, and so keep a higher level of reserves; while one with policies that largely avoid risk may have lower levels. It can also depend upon the decisions the council has made in the past. The level of reserves that need to be held is therefore largely a matter of judgement.

Councils need to keep a prudent level of reserves to provide for risks, although it is difficult to judge this without knowing the future. A level that is 'too high' would lock away public money that could possibly be spent in other ways, but councils with 'too low' a level are taking a chance that nothing will happen which costs them the whole of their reserves.

One of the biggest financial risks facing councils is that government funding is only announced one year at a time. Councils could keep lower levels of reserves if they were given certainty of funding for a period into the future.

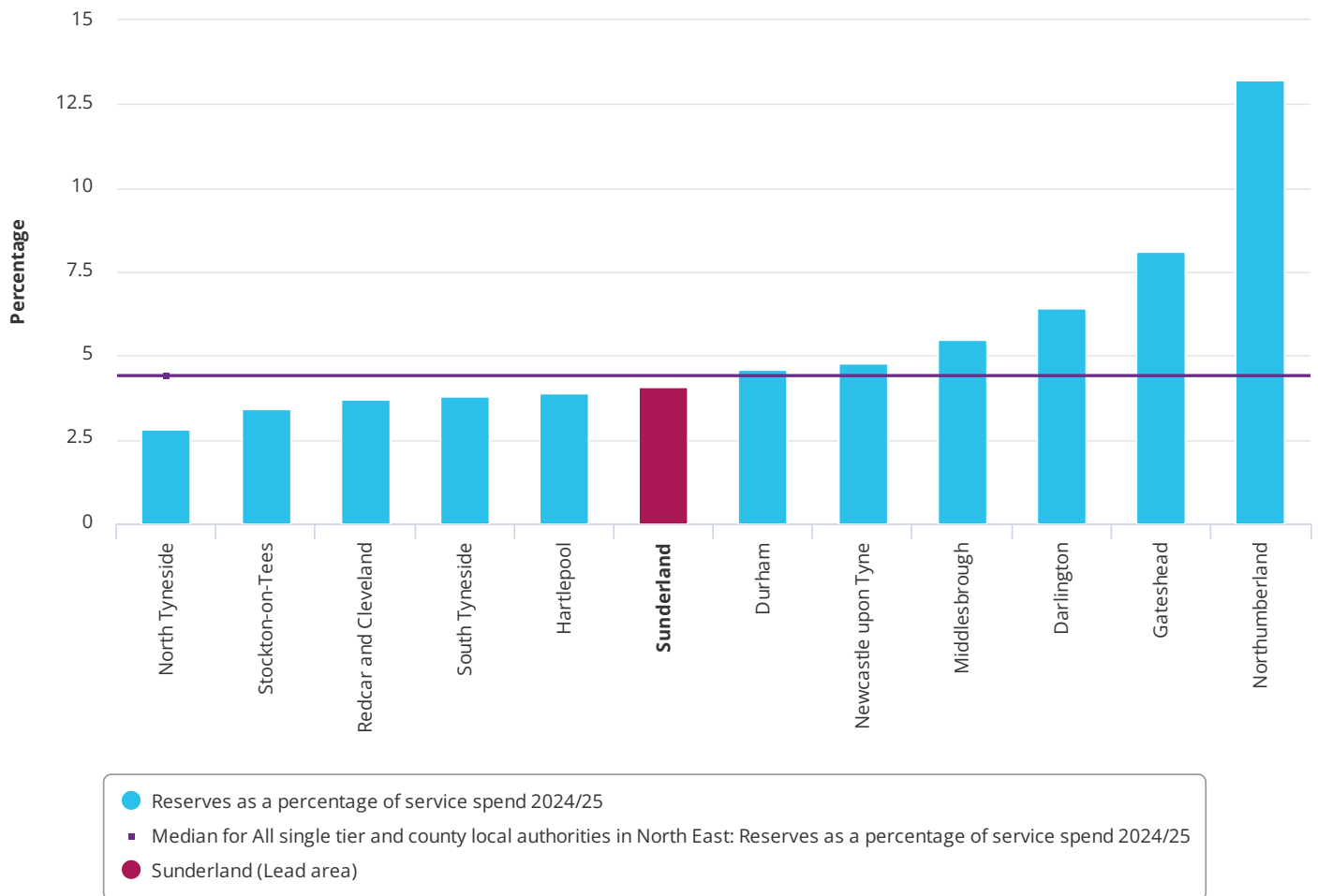
Reserves as a proportion of service expenditure

The following chart shows reserves as a proportion of 'service expenditure'. 'Service expenditure' is one of the ways in which council spending can be expressed, and is the total of all expenditure on services provided by the council after deducting grants provided by government departments, specifically to run a particular service, and any income generated by those services, such as charges for use of leisure facilities or planning fees.

Total reserves are the sum of 'unallocated' reserves (those that have been put aside for unspecified, unexpected expenses) plus 'earmarked reserves' (those that the council has set aside for specific purposes, such as a planned project, or because the purposes was decided for them by the government department which awarded them the funding - in the case of ringfenced money). For more information about reserves and how councils use them, see the introduction to the 'Finance' section above.

In 2024/25, the reserves as a proportion of 'service expenditure' for Sunderland was 4.1%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 4.4%.

Reserves as a percentage of service spend (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A

Reserves as a proportion of net revenue expenditure

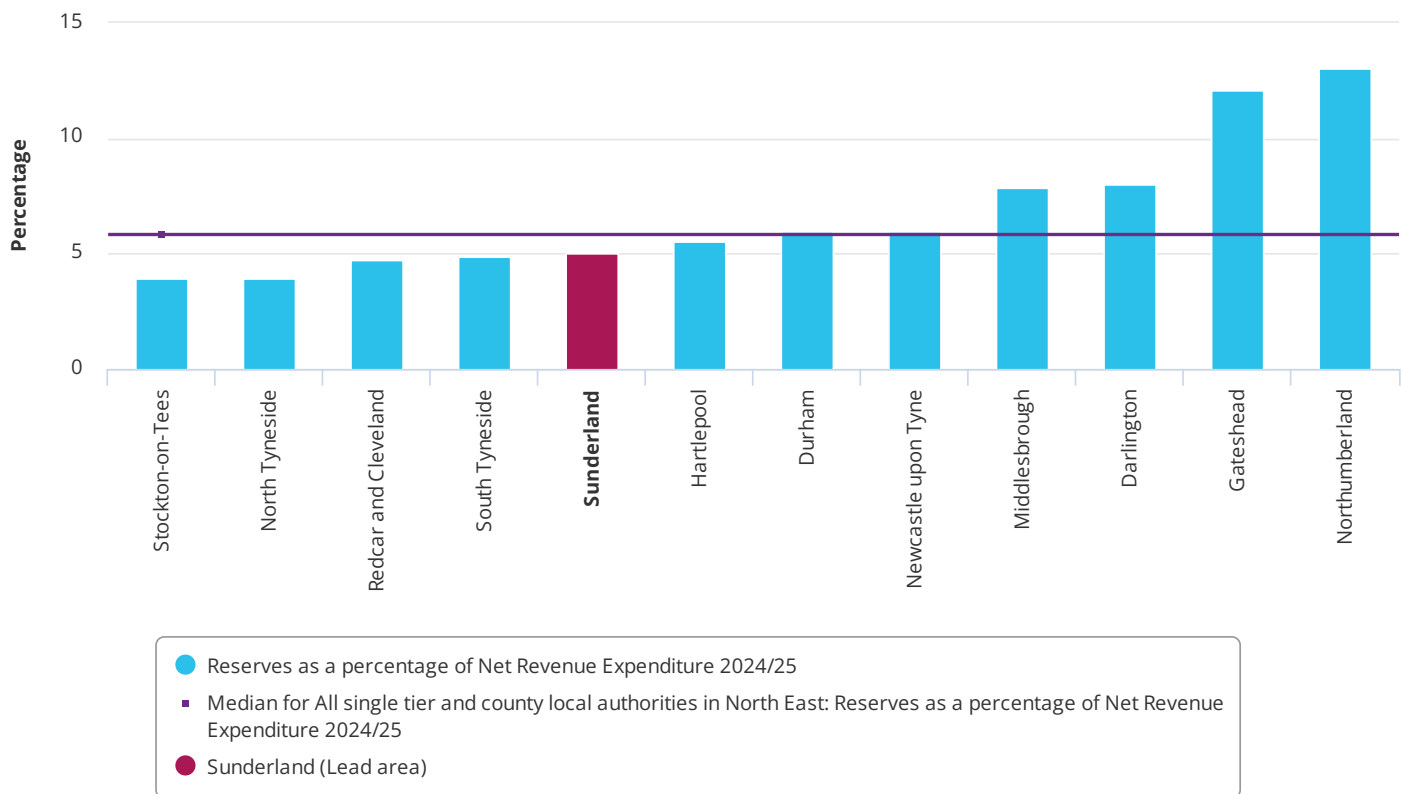
The following chart shows total reserves as a proportion of 'net revenue expenditure'. 'Net revenue expenditure' is one of the ways in which council spending can be expressed, and is the total of all expenditure on services provided by the council, plus certain types of other expenditure councils incur such as the costs of administering housing benefits on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, the costs of borrowing, income from investments, surpluses and deficits from trading activities and amounts paid to other local public bodies in some parts of the country (for example, parish councils and waste disposal authorities). It also deducts grants provided by government departments specifically to run particular services and any income generated by those services, plus any other government grants. 'Net revenue expenditure' is then funded each year by Council Tax, business rates, use of reserves (where appropriate) and – for some councils - the general grant from government which is called 'Revenue Support Grant'.

'Net revenue expenditure' is arguably a more relevant figure against which to compare levels of reserves than 'Service Expenditure', because the reserves will reflect risks relating to the whole of the council's expenditure not just its services.

Total reserves are the sum of 'unallocated' reserves (those that have been put aside for unspecified, unexpected expenses) plus 'earmarked reserves' (those that the council has set aside for specific purposes, such as a planned project, or because the purposes was decided for them by the government department which awarded them the funding - in the case of ringfenced money).

In 2024/25, the total reserves as a proportion of 'net revenue expenditure' for Sunderland was 5.0%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 5.8%.

Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure](#), Data updated: 21 Oct 2025

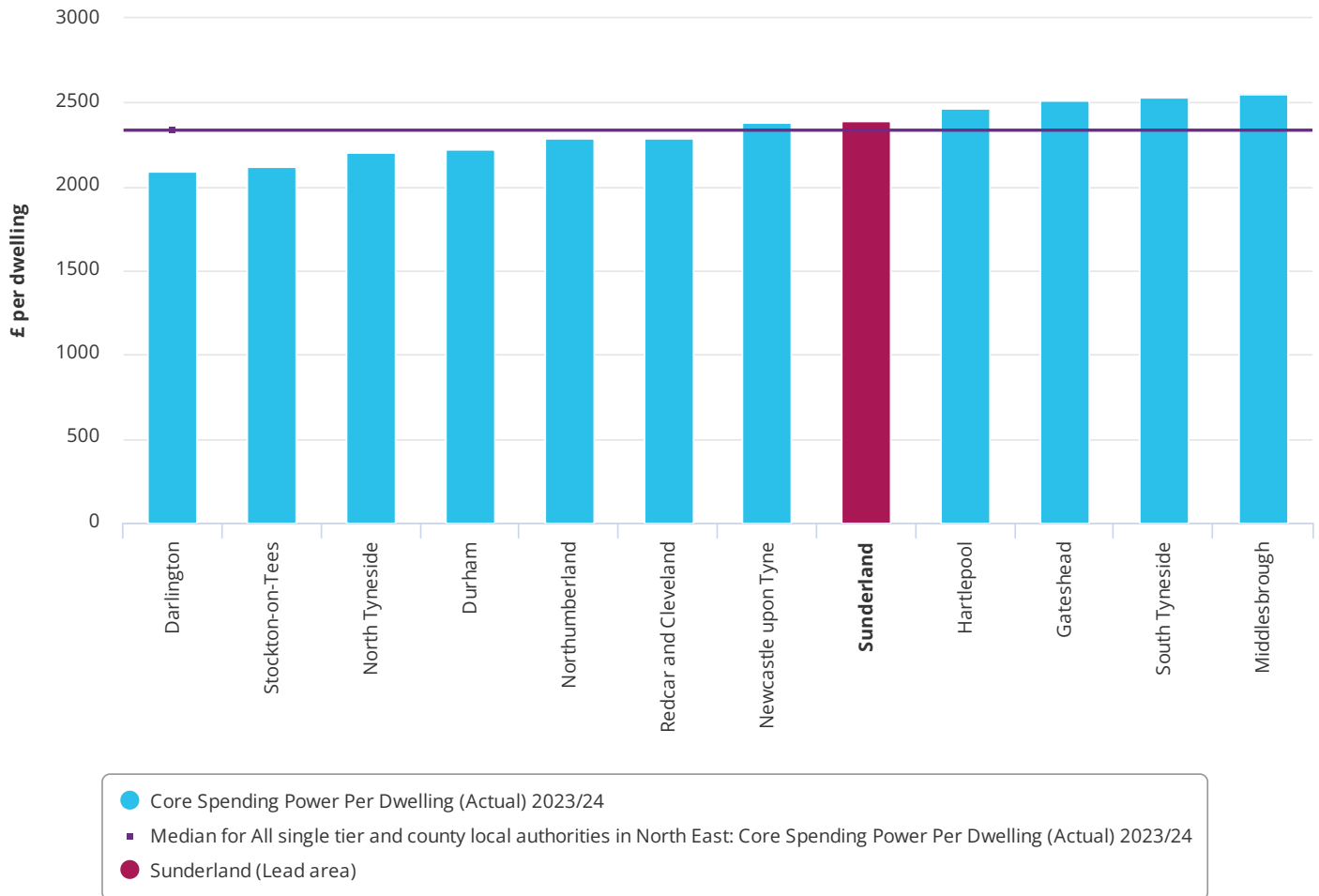
Total core spending power per dwelling

Core Spending Power is described by the government as a measure of the resources available to councils to fund service delivery. It combines income from Council Tax and business rates (as estimated by the government) with many of the revenue grants that government departments provide to councils. Core Spending Power is largely out of the control of the council and may be thought of as the amount of money made available by the government, which is a combination of grants provided by the government and local taxes (Council Tax and Business Rates) that the government permits councils to raise and retain. Core Spending Power excludes several important sources of income such as Dedicated Schools Grant. An explanation of Core Spending Power and what is included within it can be found here:

[Explanatory note on core spending power](#)

In 2023/24, the total core spending power per dwelling for Sunderland was £2,391.19, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median of £2,333.13.

Total Core Spending Power Per Dwelling (Actual) (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Core spending power, [Total Core Spending Power Per Dwelling \(Actual\)](#) , **Data updated:** 07 Feb 2025

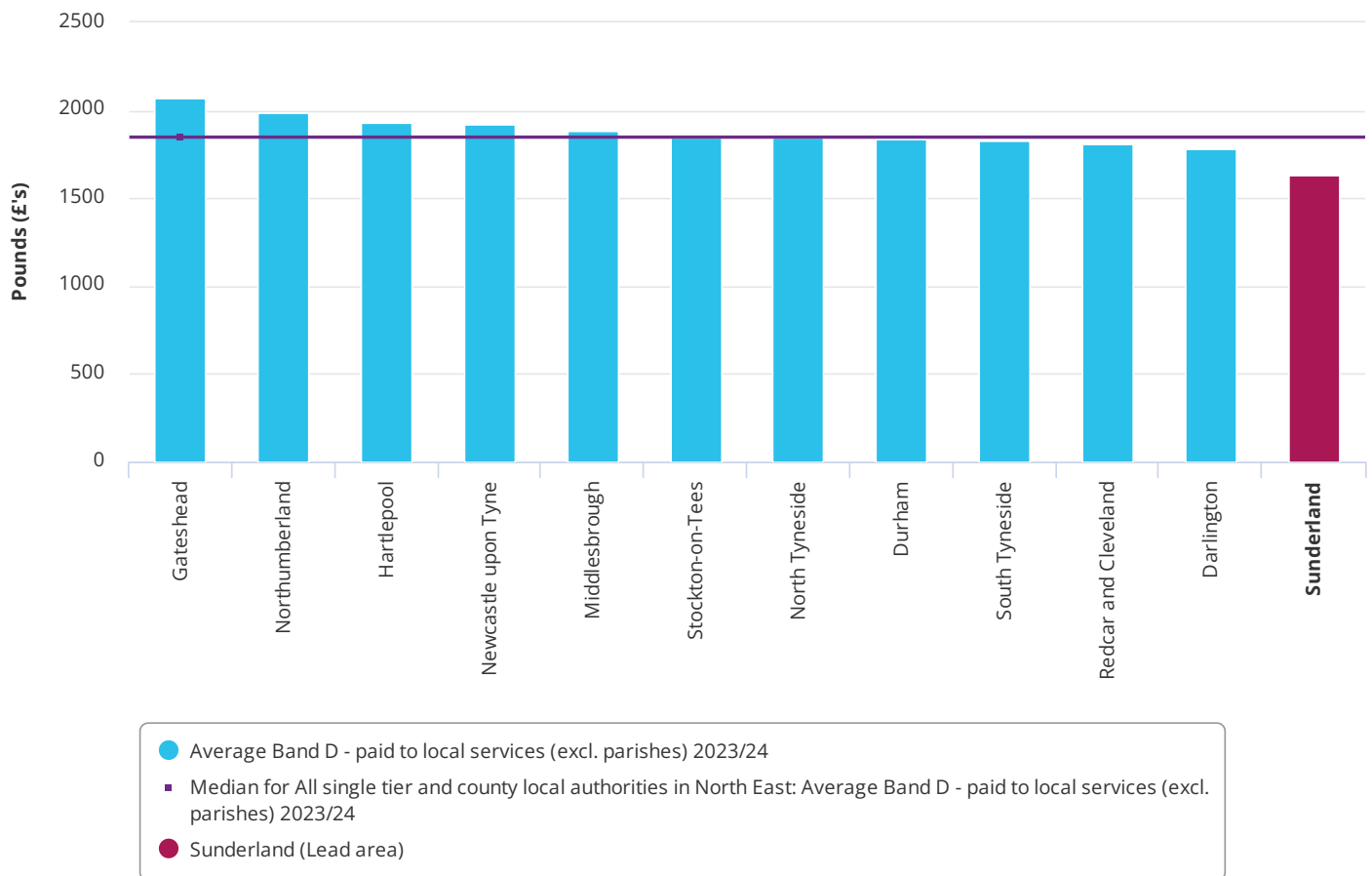
Level of Band D Council Tax rates

Band D Council Tax is set each year by the council. The 'Band D' formula theoretically allows comparison between authorities on how much Council Tax would be paid by a couple living in a medium-sized property. Band D Council Tax is the aggregate of Council Tax decisions by all 'precepting' authorities in the area, although excluding parish and town council in this case. For example, in many rural areas, it is the total of Band D tax set by the district council, the county council, the police and the fire authority.

The original conception of Band D Council Tax was that, if all councils provided the same level of service to local residents, Band D council tax should be the same everywhere, with different levels of government grants providing for councils with different needs. It is arguable how much this was ever true, but it certainly isn't the case now. Council Tax bandings have not been reviewed for over thirty years and the distribution formula for grants has not been amended for many years, so it is no longer possible to say with certainty that a council with a lower Council Tax is more efficient than one setting a higher rate.

In 2023/24, the average council tax Band D bill for Sunderland was £1,637.12, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median bill of £1,851.17.

Council Tax average Band D tax bill - amount paid to local services (excl. parishes) (2023/24) for Sunderland & All single tier and county local authorities in North East



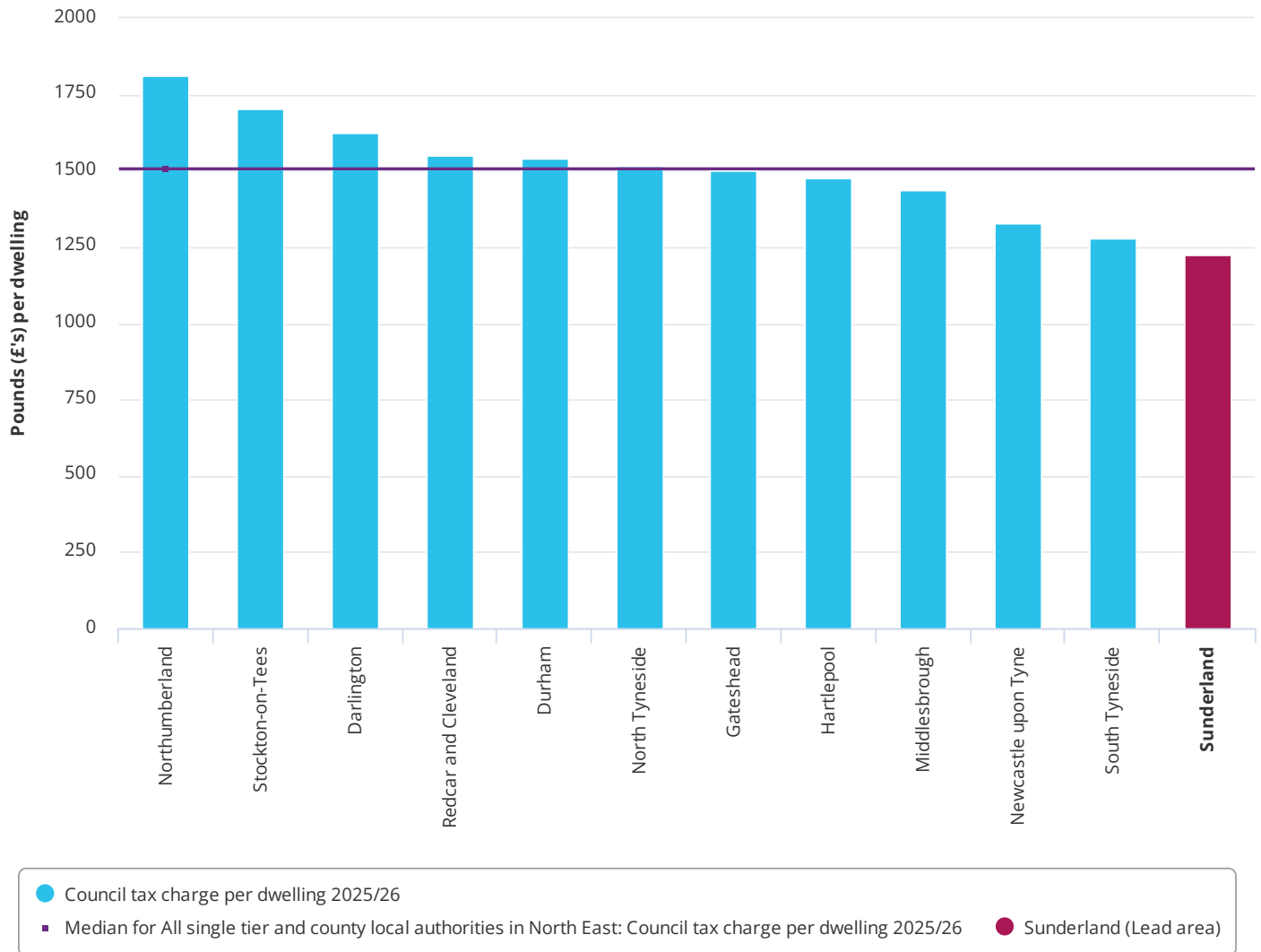
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council Tax levels set by local authorities, [Council tax average Band D tax bill - amount paid to local services \(excl. parishes\)](#) , **Data updated:** 30 Apr 2025

Council Tax revenue per dwelling

This is a broad measure of how much Council Tax on average a resident in a particular area pays, before local discounts and council tax support. This measure differs from the Band D Council Tax rate because not all properties belong to the 'Band D' category for a medium sized, medium value dwelling. In practice, some authorities have a majority of lower valued properties while others contain a lot of higher valued residences. Generally speaking this reflects the nature of the area and its property. It is important to note that the majority of bandings were based on valuations in 1991.

In 2023/24, the average council tax a resident pays, before local discounts and council tax support, for Sunderland was **£1,084.58**, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median of £1,335.82.

Council tax, average charge per chargeable dwelling (2025/26) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax, [Council tax, average charge per chargeable dwelling](#) , **Data updated:** 30 Apr 2025

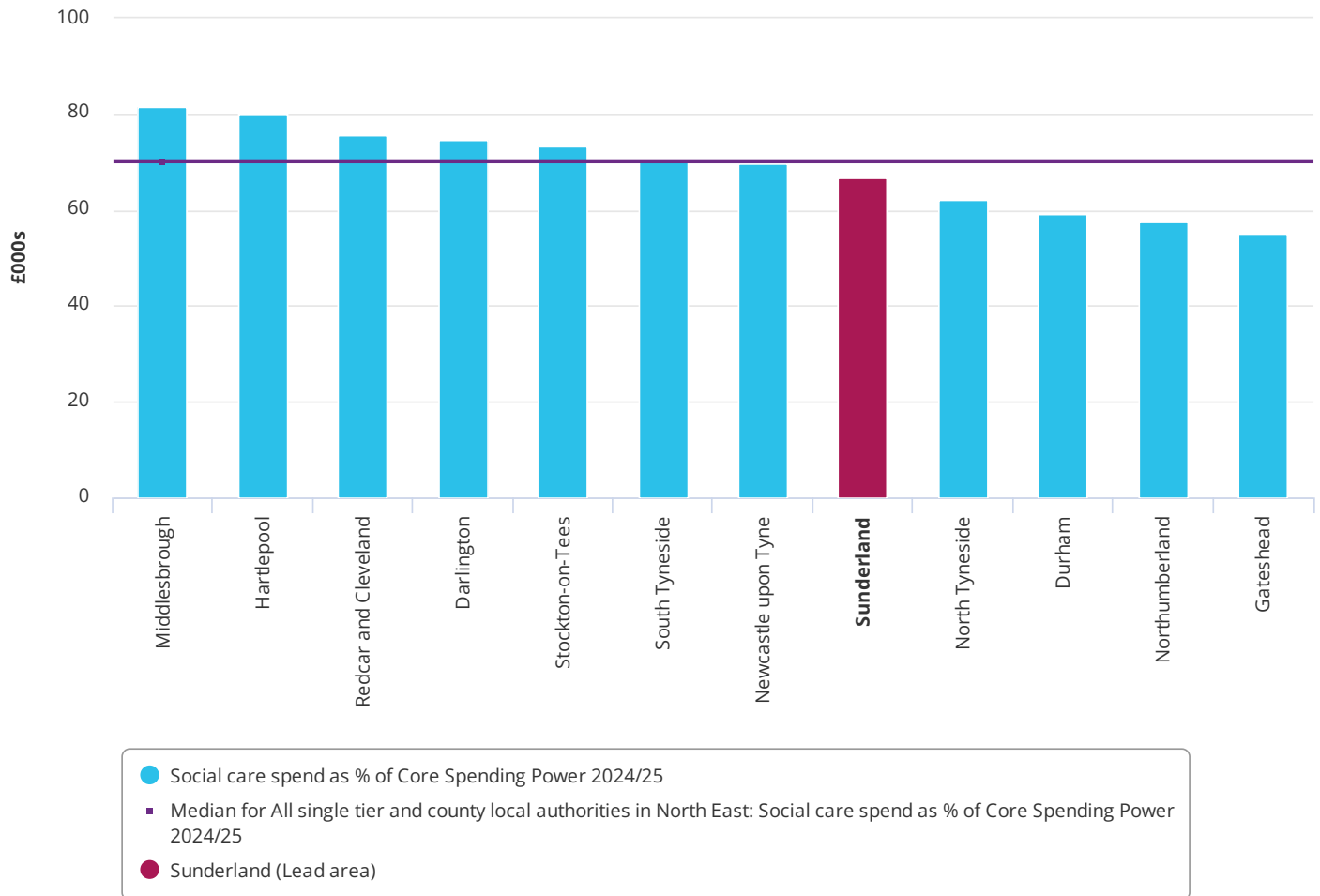
Social care spend as percentage of core spending power

Core Spending Power is described by the government as a measure of the resources available to councils to fund service delivery. Where a council is a social care providing authority (counties and single tier authorities), a proportion of that funding will need to be allocated to provide social care for adults and children. This chart shows that proportion.

Social care is generally regarded as a 'demand led' service, insomuch as the cost of providing these services is strongly influenced by the number of eligible residents living in the area – for example the size of the elderly population or the number of vulnerable children. The proportion of core spending power allocated to social care spending is a measure of how much a council has allocated to these services but also an indication of how much funding it has available for other services.

In 2024/25, the level of social care spend as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Sunderland was 66.9%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median of 70.1%.

Social care spend as % of Core Spending Power (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

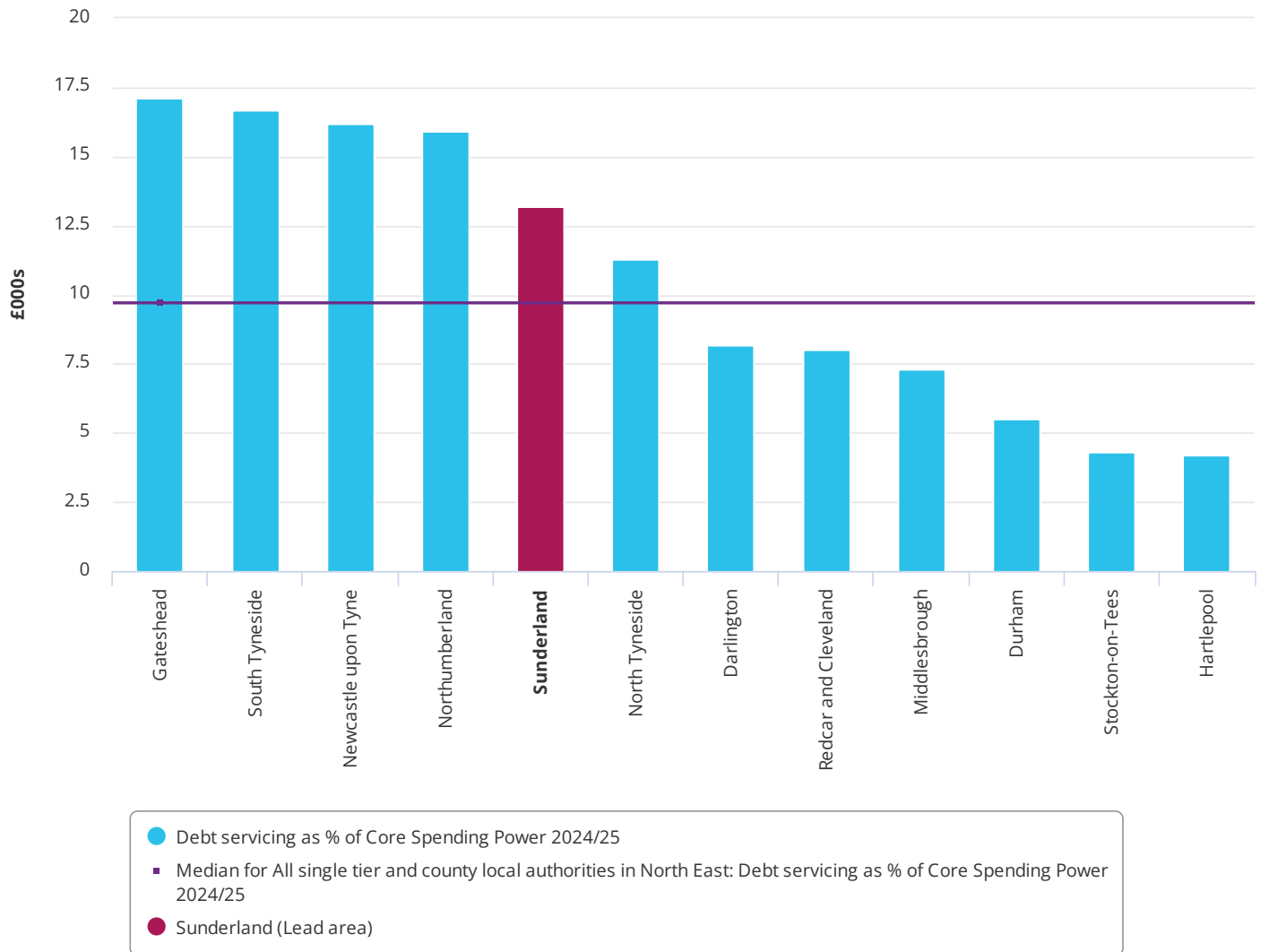
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Social care spend as % of Core Spending Power](#) , **Data updated:** 21 Oct 2025

Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power

Capital expenditure is expenditure which has an impact over more than one year – for example building a road or a community centre which is going to last many years. Where a council finances capital spending by borrowing or credit, it will incur costs on its budget over the period of the loan or credit arrangement. These figures demonstrate how much the council is currently paying in relation to servicing its debt compared with its Core Spending Power, recognising the fact that current residents are getting the benefit of investments in assets made several years ago.

In 2024/25, the level of debt servicing as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Sunderland was 13.2%, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median of 9.7%.

Debt servicing as % of Core Spending Power (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Debt servicing as % of Core Spending Power](#), Data updated: 21 Oct 2025

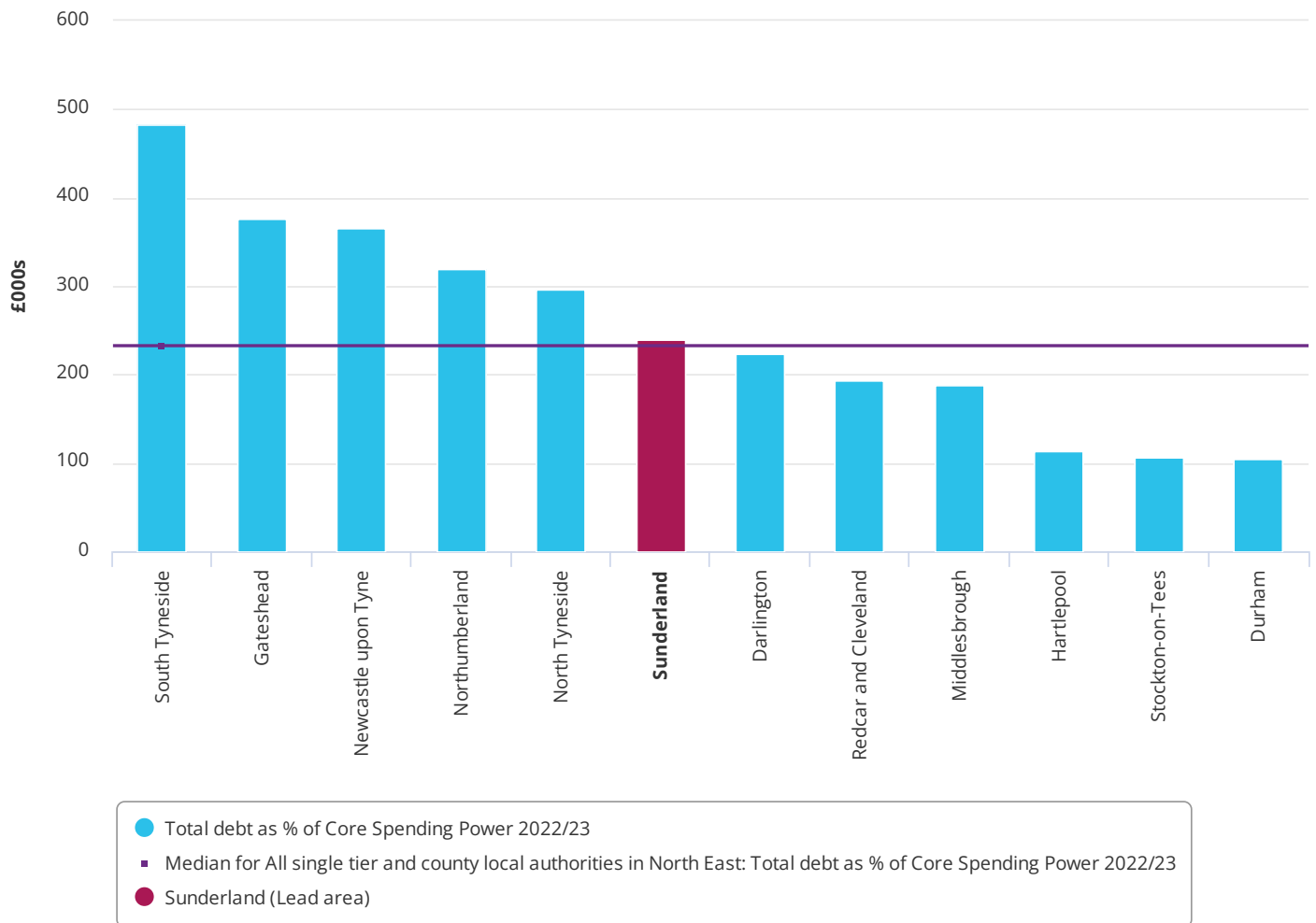
Total debt as percentage of core spending power

'Total debt' is Capital Financing Requirement, a measure of capital indebtedness that the council has built up over many years of capital financing decisions, but based on a methodology. It is perhaps more accurate to describe this as the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been funded by capital receipts, capital grants or revenue contributions and which therefore will need to be funded in future years. As such, it is some kind of measure of capital indebtedness, but arguably not a perfect one.

Core Spending Power is a measure of the funding the government makes available to councils for service delivery but it excludes several important elements that may be contributing to the servicing of debt including schools grants, investment income, service income and housing rents.

In 2024/25, the total debt as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Sunderland was 274.0%, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median percentage of 242.6%.

Total debt as % of Core Spending Power (2022/23) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Total debt as % of Core Spending Power](#) , Data updated: 19 Jun 2025

Corporate health

Workforce

The two charts below show the vacancy rate and labour turnover for the council overall. The vacancy rate is the count of vacancies as a proportion of the overall headcount of a local authority; while labour turnover is the total headcount of leavers (either voluntarily or involuntarily, including retirements, resignations, dismissals or redundancies) over the last financial year as a proportion of the average total headcount of those employed over the last financial year.

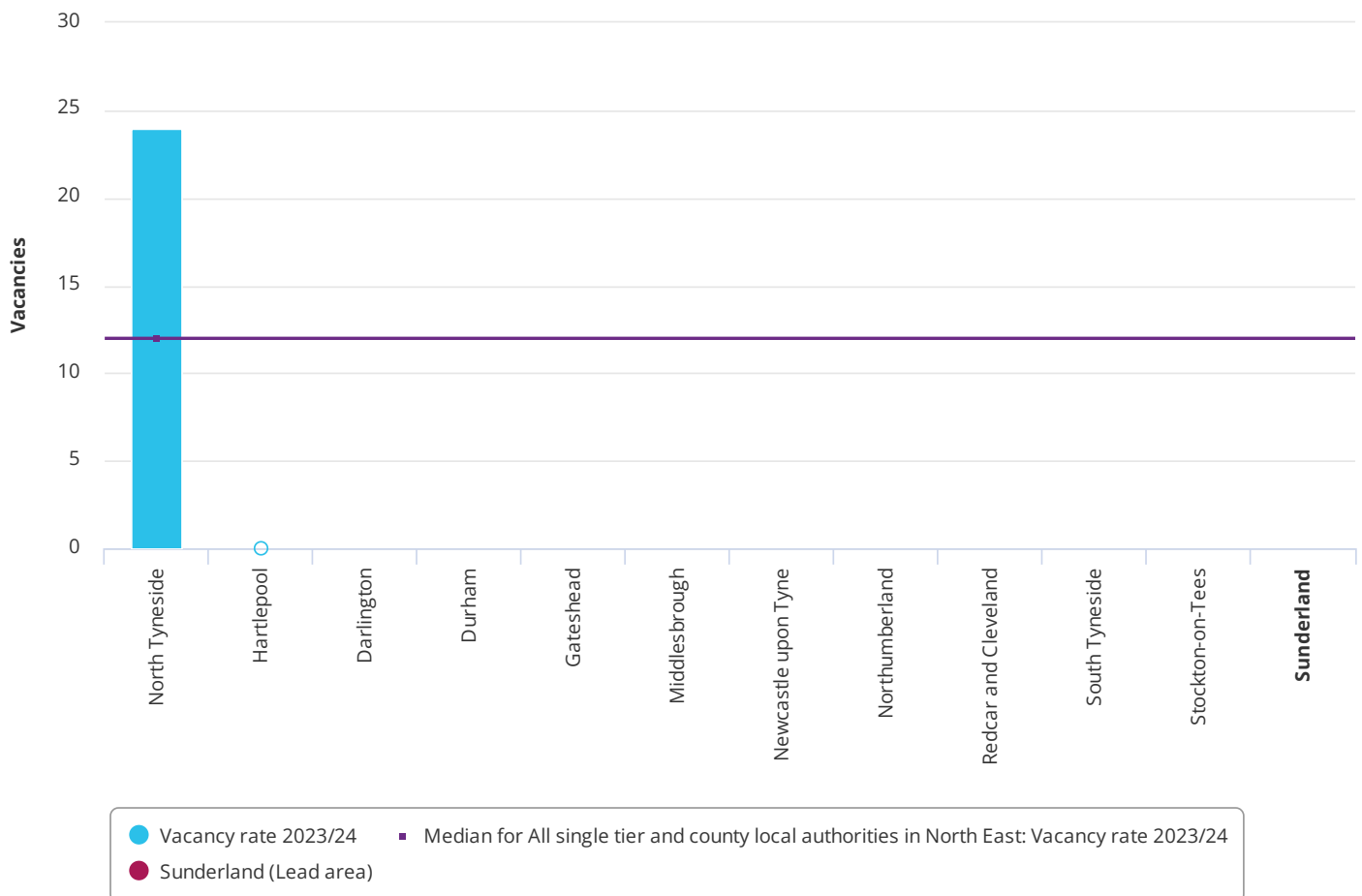
Both of these measures are taken from a voluntary HR benchmarking collection, which does not have a response from all authorities.

Even if the council's data appears 'average', their overall vacancy rate and labour turnover may hide problems in particular service areas. LGA research shows that many authorities have particular problems with recruitment and retention in key service areas like adult and children's social care and building control. You might want to ask them whether there are any particular services where they have workforce capacity issues, because you may well want to bring it in when you are looking at performance in particular services.

It should be noted that the vacancy information is indicative rather than exact. HR/payroll systems in councils use an HR structure to organise posts, where employees are assigned. The structure needs regular maintenance to remove deleted or unfunded posts. While employee data is often well-maintained, because it links to payroll, the HR structure can accumulate outdated posts, especially since responsibility for updating it has often shifted to service managers, who may not consistently remove obsolete entries. This can lead to reports showing false vacancies. As a result, the comparison in the chart below should be used carefully, to give a broad indication, rather than assuming a precise comparison.

In 2023/24 Sunderland City Council had a vacancy rate of **Missing** per cent. The chart below shows the vacancy rate compared to All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Vacancy rate (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



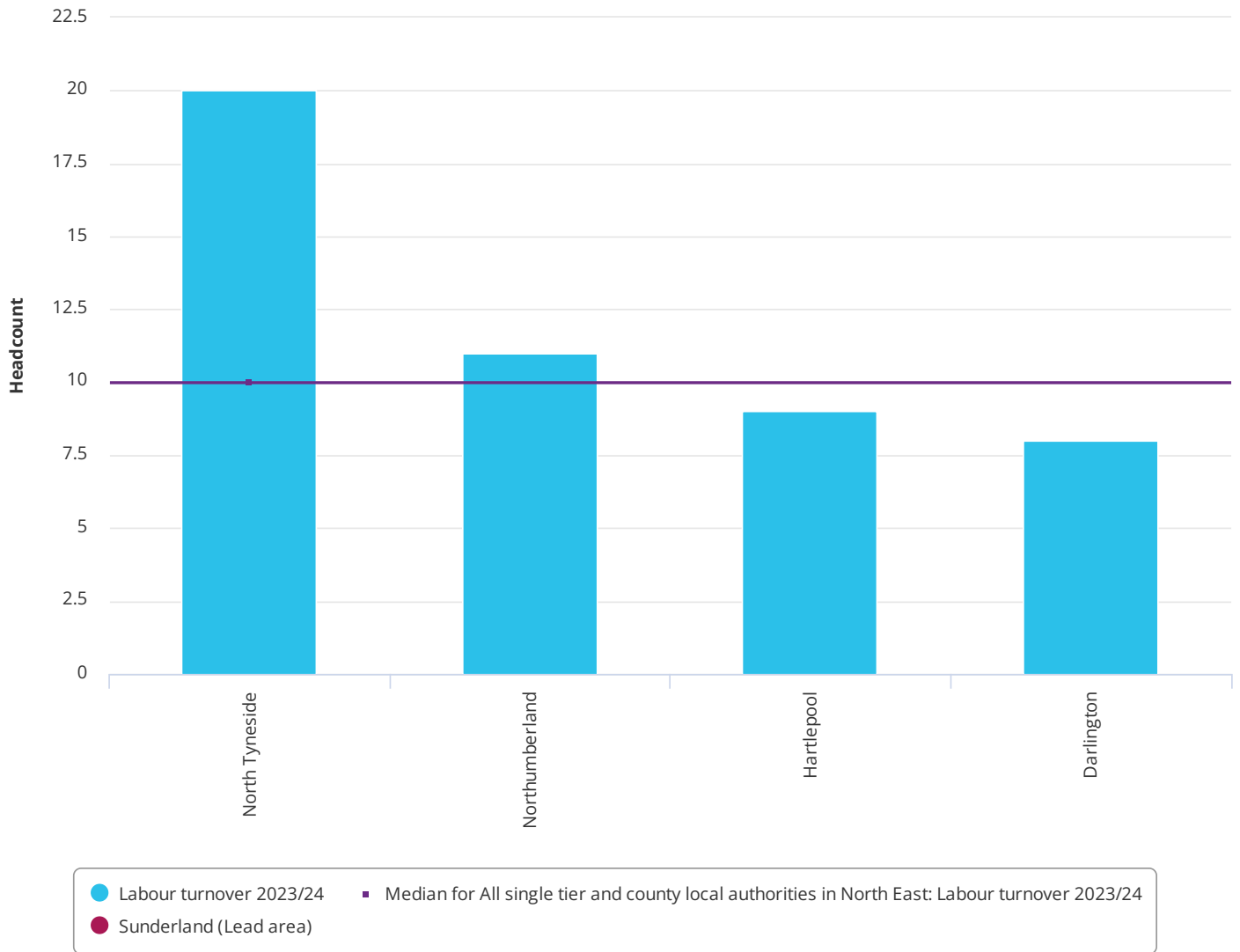
Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Vacancy rate](#), Data updated: 14 Jul 2025

In 2023/24 Sunderland City Council had a labour turnover of [Missing](#) per cent. The chart below shows labour turnover compared to All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Not all councils submitted data for this voluntary benchmarking. If data is not available for your selected council, the name of the authority will not feature in the chart, and the value in sentence above will show 'Missing'.

Labour turnover (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Labour turnover](#) , **Data updated:** 14 Jul 2025

Upheld Ombudsman complaints

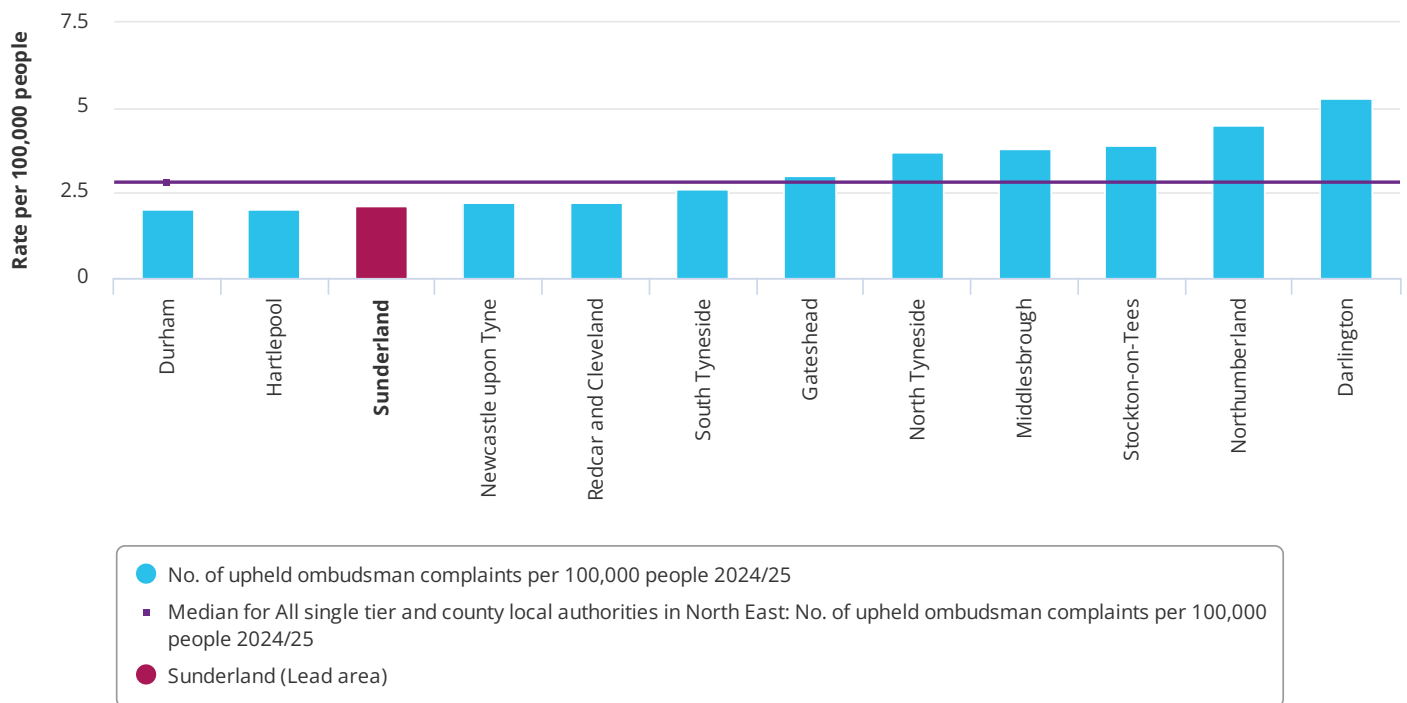
The chart below shows investigations in which the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) found some evidence of fault by the local authority, or that it accepted fault at an early stage. The number of upheld investigations is rated per 100,000 population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes. Complaints are upheld when fault is found in a local authority's actions, including where the local authority accepted fault before they were investigated.

There are some caveats to consider when looking at this data. The LGSCO itself advises caution when using these statistics to monitor the performance of organisations, because the number of new cases received does not simply depend on the number of problems people have with local services. There are lots of other factors to consider, for instance:

- Demographics: the characteristics of the organisation could influence the kind of complaints that are made – for example, a community that includes a high proportion of older people may raise more complaints about adult social care services.
- Local conditions: sometimes, one-off events can generate multiple complaints about the same organisation – for example, there may be several complaints from people who oppose a council's decision to grant planning permission for a large housing development.
- Expectations: not everyone who receives a poor service goes on to raise a complaint and some people are less likely to complain than others - so a fall in the number of received complaints may reflect lower expectations rather than an improvement in services.
- Time: the number of complaints upheld by the LGSCO in any given year may be affected by a time lag – for example, some complex complaints may refer to many years ago.

In 2024/25, 2.1 complaints per 100,000 people were upheld in Sunderland, compared to All single tier and county local authorities in North East mean of 3.1 complaints.

Number of upheld Ombudsman complaints per 10,000 people (2024/25) for Sunderland & All single tier and county local authorities in North East



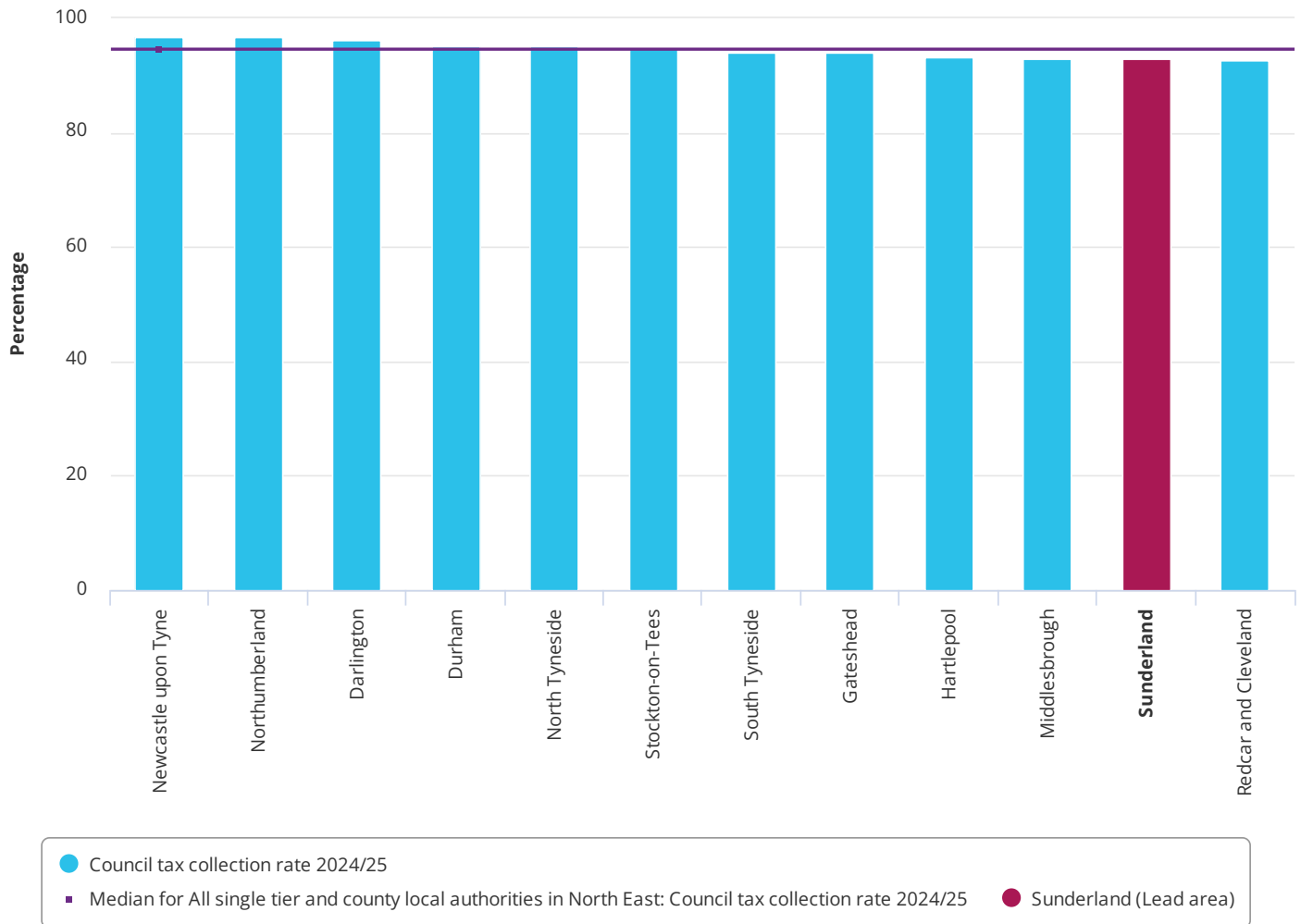
Source: Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, Local government complaint reviews, [Number of upheld ombudsman complaints per 10,000 people](#) , **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

Council Tax and rates collection

The next two charts should be looked at together. It shows the percentage of Council Tax and then business rates collected.

In 2024/25, 92.95 per cent of Council Tax was collected that was due in Sunderland. This compares to 95.88 per cent in England and an average of 94.57 per cent in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Council tax collected as a percentage of council tax due (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

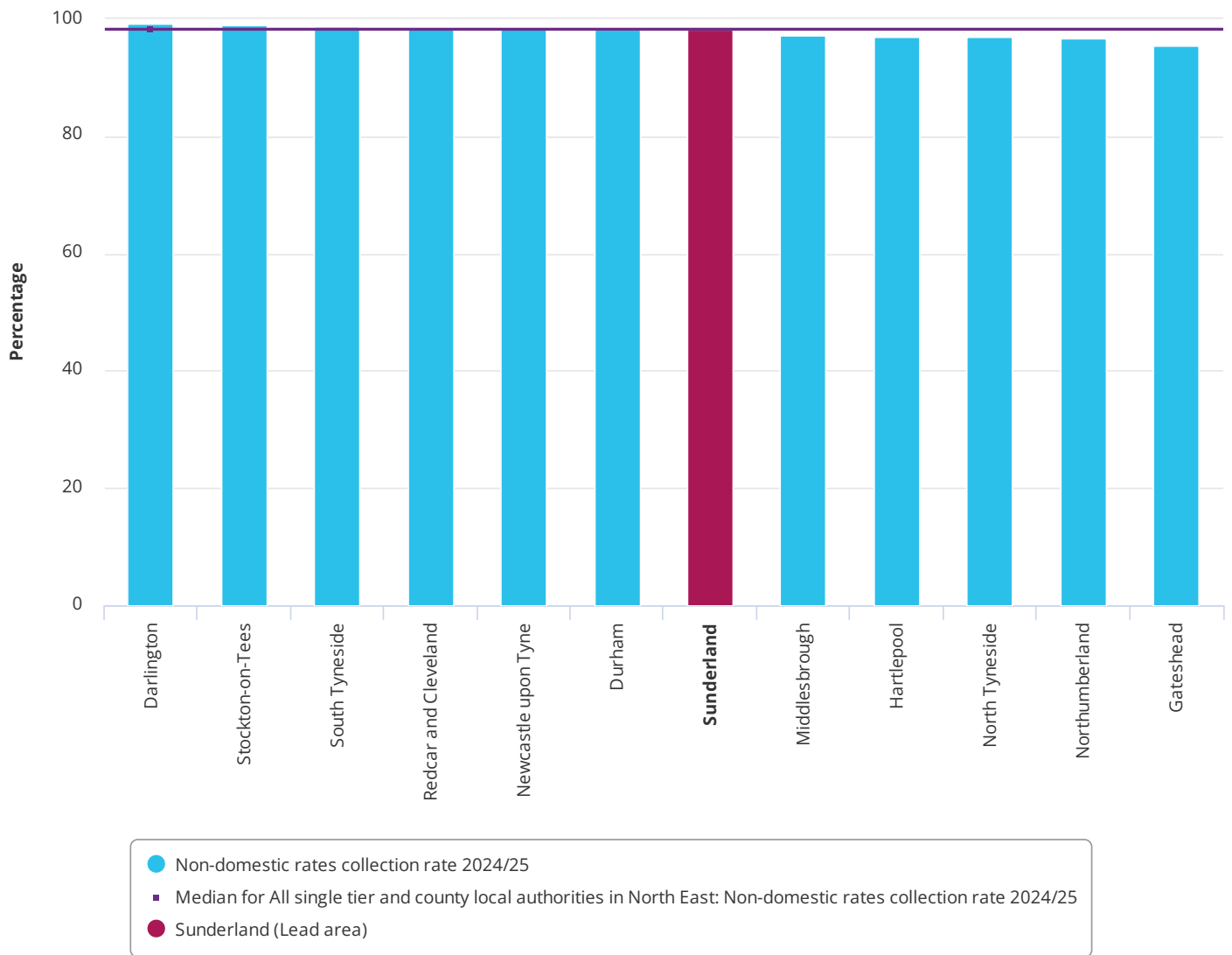


Source:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax collection rates, [Council tax collected as a percentage of council tax due](#), **Data updated:** 25 Jun 2025

In 2024/25, 98.22 per cent of business rates were collected that were due in Sunderland. This compares to 97.32 per cent in England and an average of 97.83 per cent in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Non-domestic rates collected as percentage non-domestic rates due (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax collection rates, [Percentage of Business rates collected](#), **Data updated:** 25 Jun 2025

Housing services

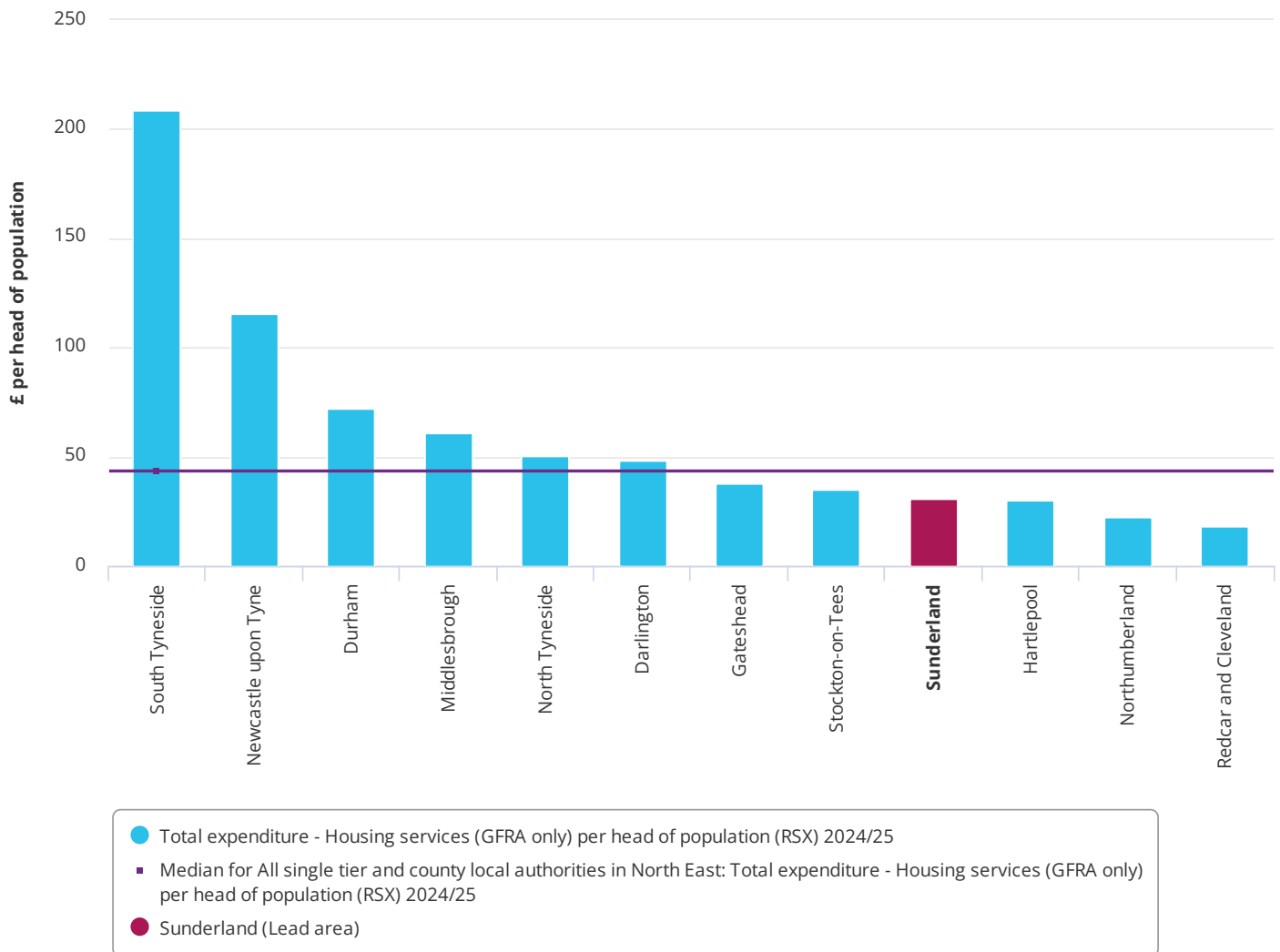
The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on housing services, looking at the General Fund Revenue Account (GFRA) only. The GFRA is the total revenue expenditure and income for the housing service, which includes employee costs and running expenses, but excludes funding in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The HRA is a separate account held only by councils that have their own housing stock, and records expenditure and income for running that stock (and closely related services or facilities), which are provided primarily for the benefit of the council's own tenants.

We use GFRA, because this is comparable across all housing authorities, whether or not they have council housing stock. What is included in this is: assessments of housing need, housing advice services, waiting list management, private sector housing renewal, administration of financial support for housing grants, prohibition orders and improvement notices, empty homes, licensing private sector landlords and homelessness services.

Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2024/25 Sunderland spent £31.01 on housing services per person. This compares to £93.55 per person in England and an average of £60.96 per person in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Housing services (GFRA only) per head of population (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

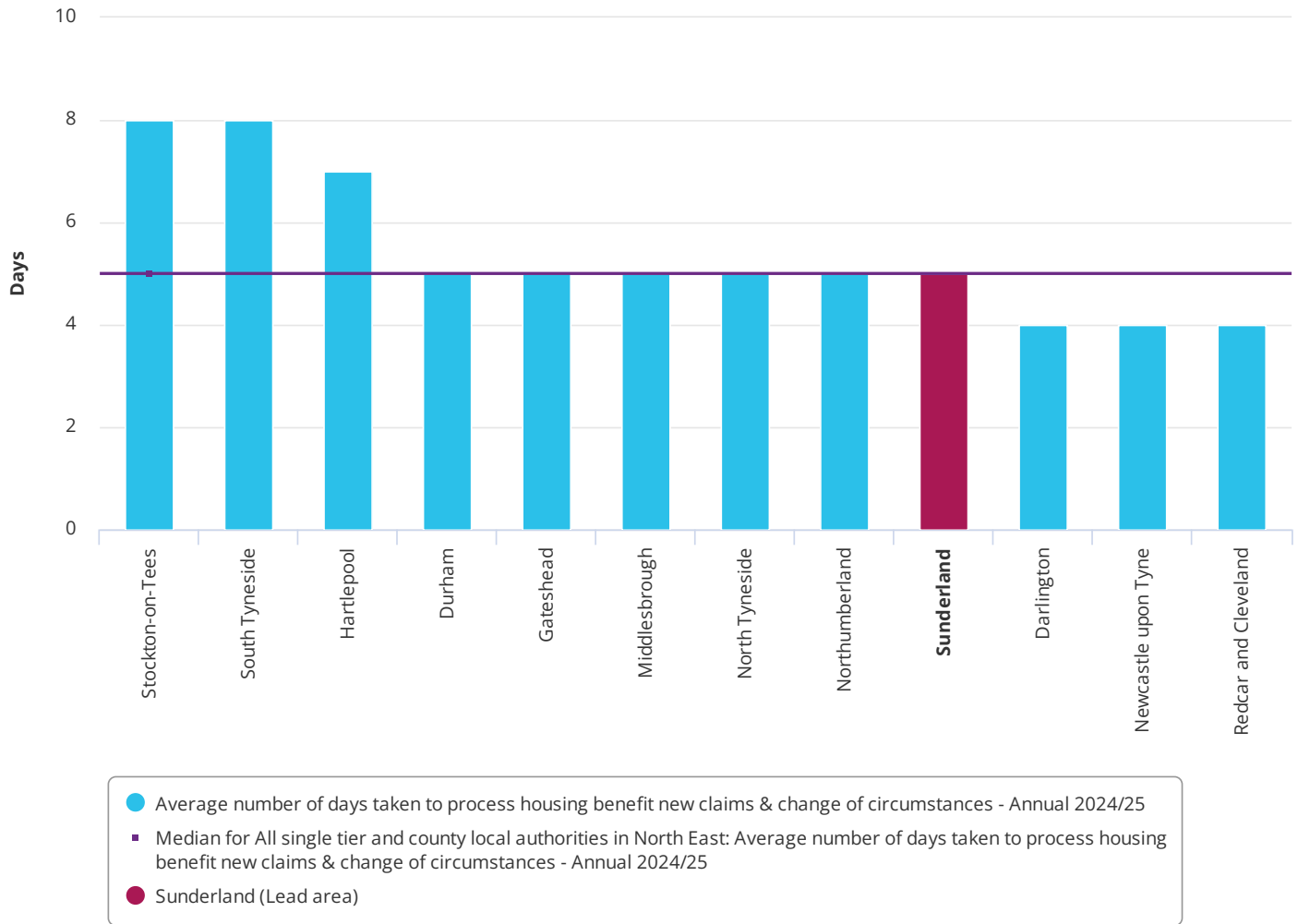


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total revenue expenditure on Housing services \(GFRA only\) per head of population](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

This chart shows the average time taken by the authority to process Housing Benefit claims. A lower number is good.

In 2024/25 the Average number of days taken to process housing benefit new claims and change of circumstances - Annual in Sunderland was 5 days. This compares to 7 days in England and 5 days on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Average number of days taken to process housing benefit new claims and change of circumstances - Annual (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



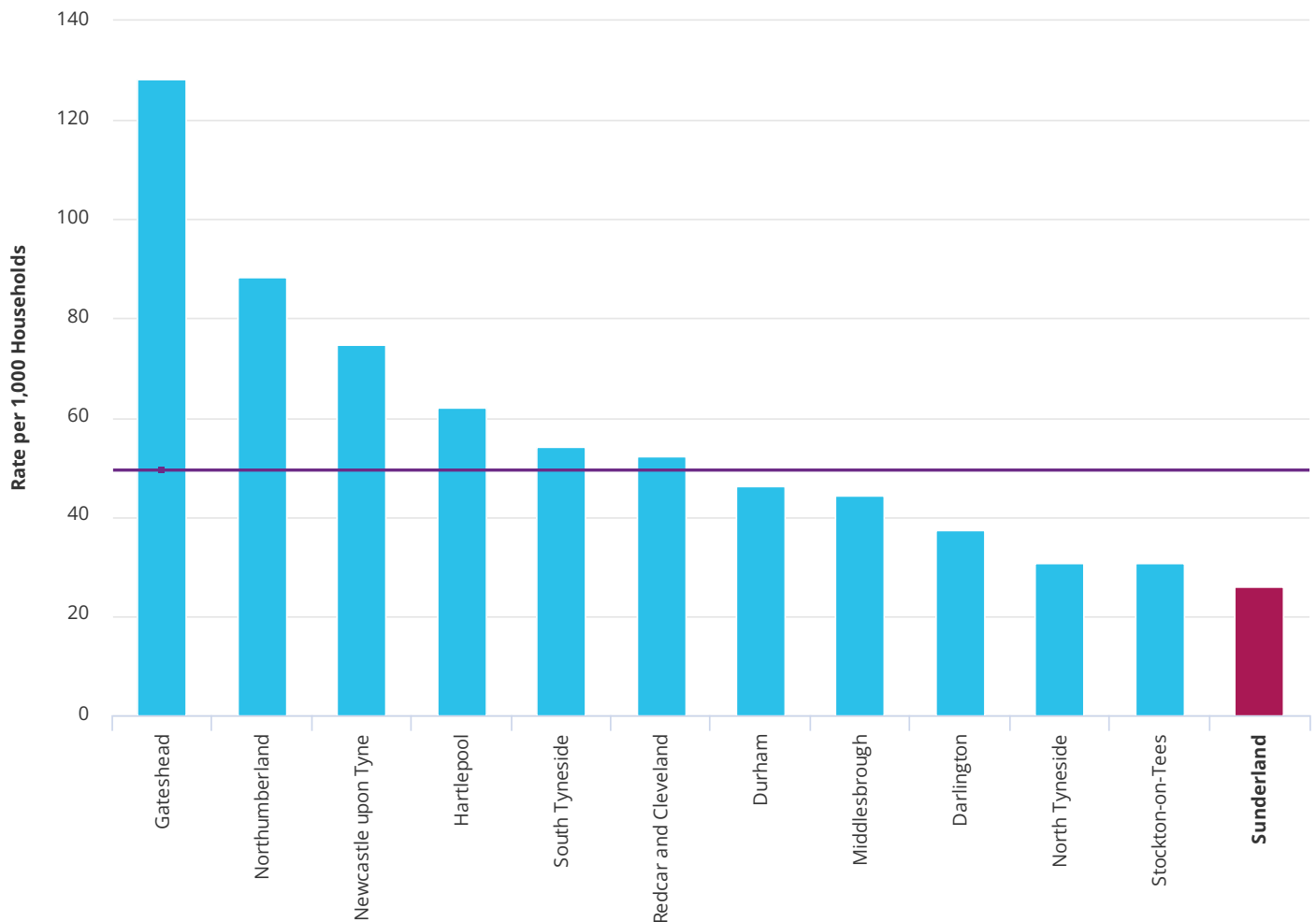
Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Housing Benefit: statistics on speed of processing (SoP), [Time taken to process housing benefit new claims and change events - Annual](#), **Data updated:** 01 Aug 2025

The next two charts, about households on the housing waiting list and the number in temporary accommodation can be looked at together. A lower number is better, for both of them.

However, be careful of automatically assuming good performance because a council appears to be doing better than average. It may simply be a reflection that the council has more of its own housing stock or access to other housing compared to other authorities (because, for example, demand for housing or house prices are lower than in other areas), which means it's their local circumstances which help them here, rather than their performance alone. Alternatively, their circumstances may make good performance more difficult (for example, lack of available housing or high prices for renting).

At 1 April 2024/25, there were 26.1 households per 1,000 households on the housing waiting list in Sunderland. This compares to 93.55 households per 1,000 in England and an average of 56.3 households per 1,000 on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total households on the housing waiting list at 31st March per 1,000 households (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

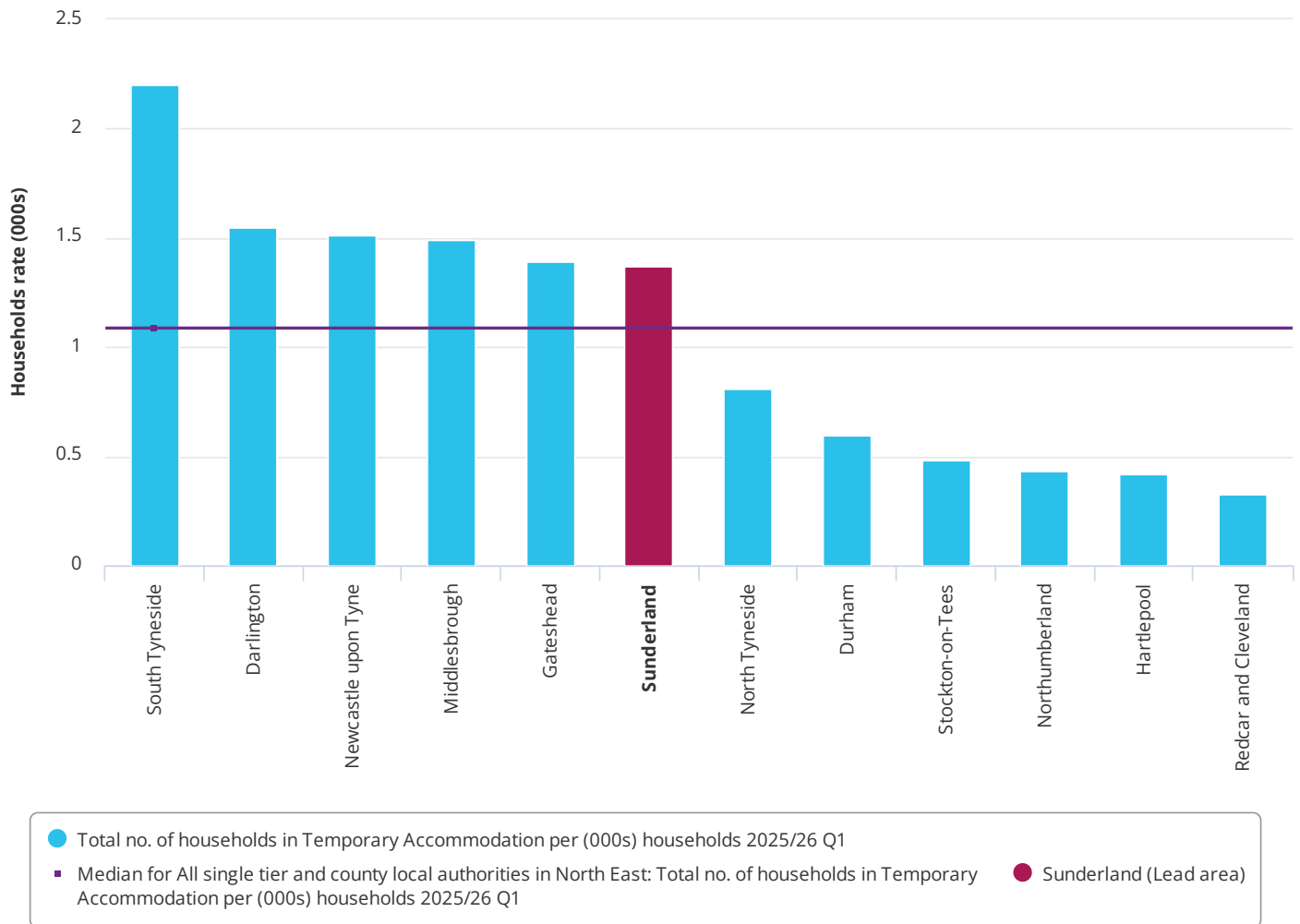


- Total households on housing waiting list at 31 March per 1,000 households 2023/24
- Median for All single tier and county local authorities in North East: Total households on housing waiting list at 31 March per 1,000 households 2023/24
- Sunderland (Lead area)

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS), [Total households on the housing waiting list at 1st April per 1,000 households](#), **Data updated:** 30 Jun 2025

In 2025/26 Q1 there were 1.37 households per 1,000 living in temporary accommodation in Sunderland. This compares to 5.43 households per 1,000 in England and an average of 1.05 per person in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Households in temporary accommodation - Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation per (000s) households (2025/26 Q1) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



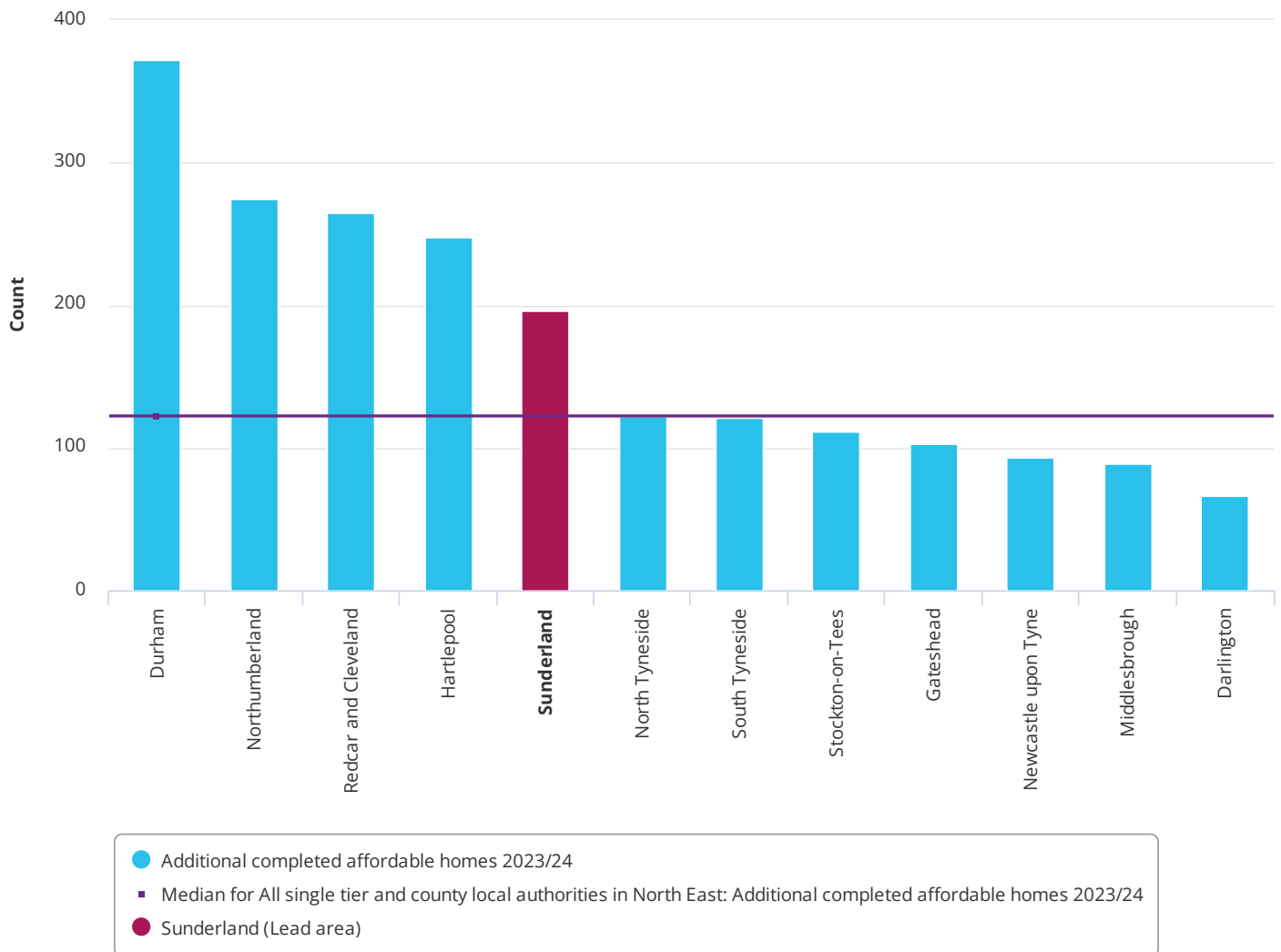
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Statutory homelessness live tables, [Households in temporary accommodation - Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation per \(000s\) households](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

The chart below shows the number of affordable homes delivered. Although a high number is objectively good, it will of course depend on factors like demand in the area, the size of the area, the availability of land and the target number of affordable homes that authorities have set.

Note also, that affordable homes take time to deliver, and it's unlikely they will be delivered evenly each year. If an authority has delivered very few in the latest year, look at the data over time or explore with the council whether they have delivered a large number in recent years instead. It may be that they are delivered in tranches.

In 2023/24 there were 196 affordable homes built in the Sunderland area. This compares to 172 built on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Number of completed affordable homes delivered (gross) (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

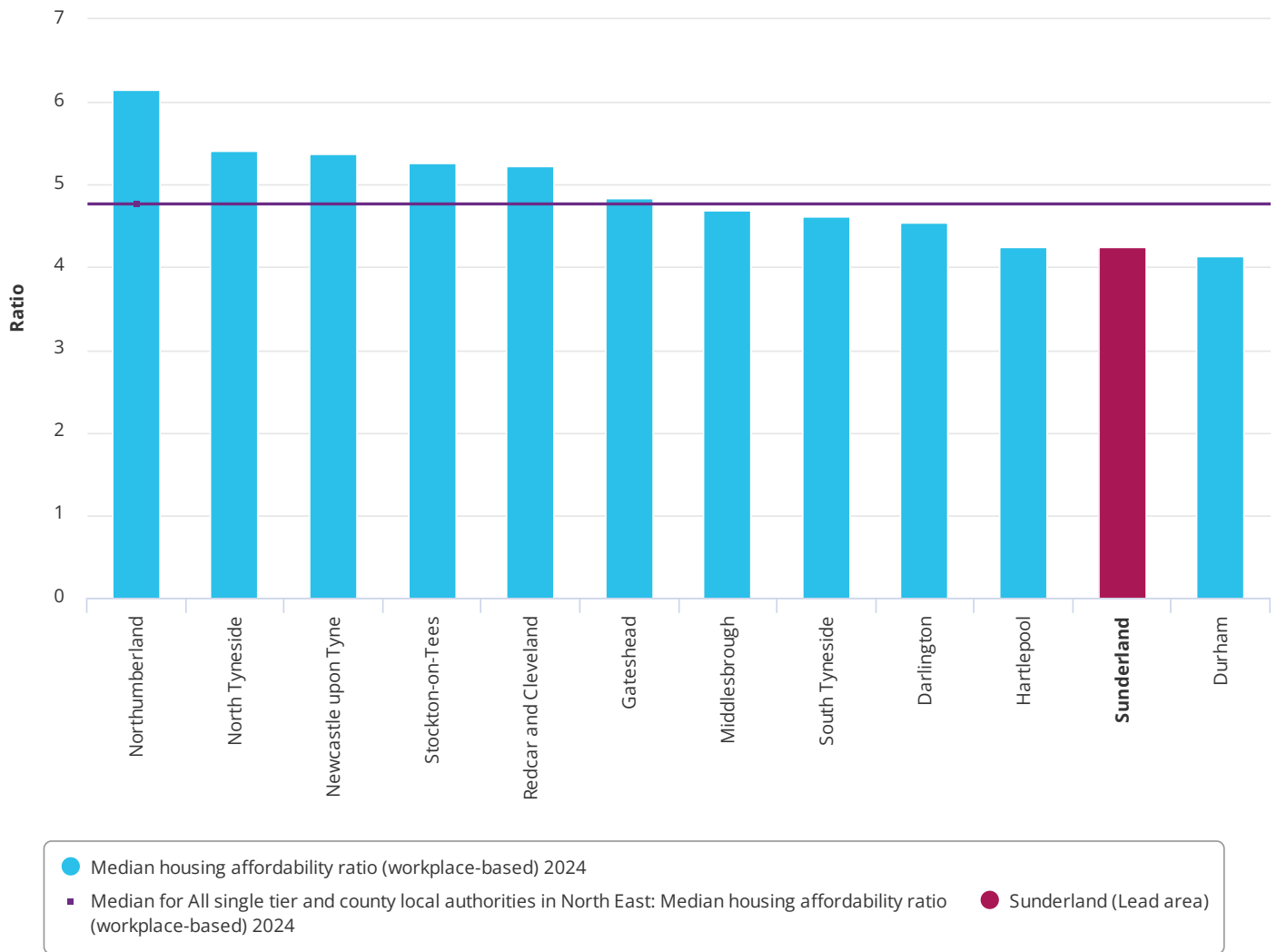


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Live tables on affordable housing supply, [Number of affordable homes delivered \(gross\)](#), **Data updated:** 26 Jun 2025

The chart below shows the median housing affordability ratio (workplace-based) and is calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual earnings, based on the median of both house prices and earnings. This measure of affordability indicates the extent to which employees can afford to live where they work, not where they necessarily already live, which effectively reflects the house-buying power of employees. The lower the ratio, the more affordable the housing relative to earnings. Where the ratio is high, this might impact on the ability of the council and other employers in the area to recruit to lower paid jobs in the area, which may impact the economic vitality of an area. You might also link this back to the number of affordable houses being built. If the ratio house price to earnings is high, then the need for affordable housing will be greater.

In 2024 the housing affordability ratio for Sunderland was 4.25. This compares to 7.71 in England and an average of 4.90 in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Ratio of median house price to median gross annual (workplace-based) earnings (2024) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



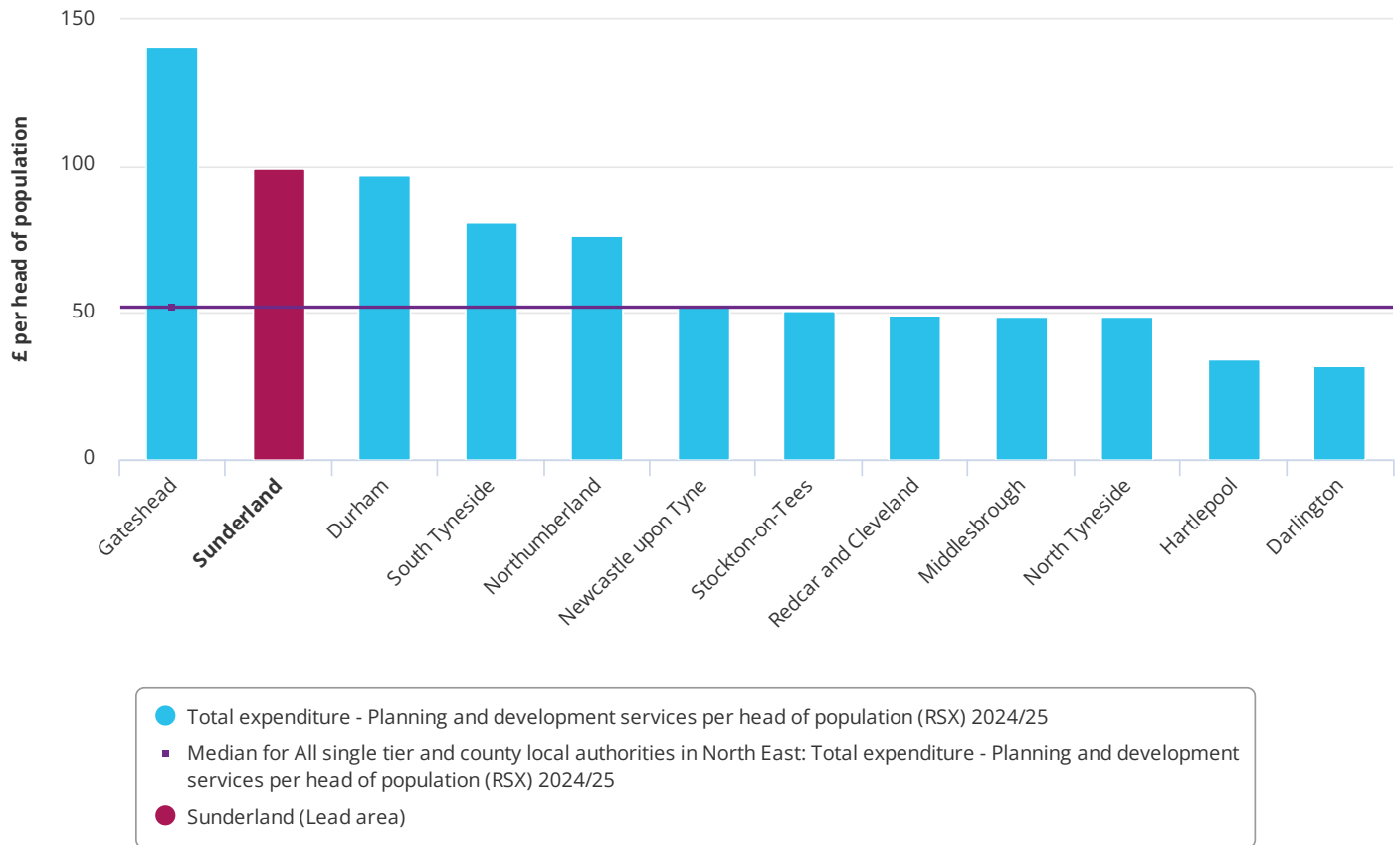
Source: Office for National Statistics, Housing affordability in England and Wales, [Ratio of median house price to median gross annual \(workplace-based\) earnings](#), **Data updated:** 02 Apr 2025

Planning services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on planning and development services, including employee costs and running expenses. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2024/25, 99.40 planning and development services per head of population were in Sunderland compared to 67.53 mean in All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Planning and development services per head of population (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

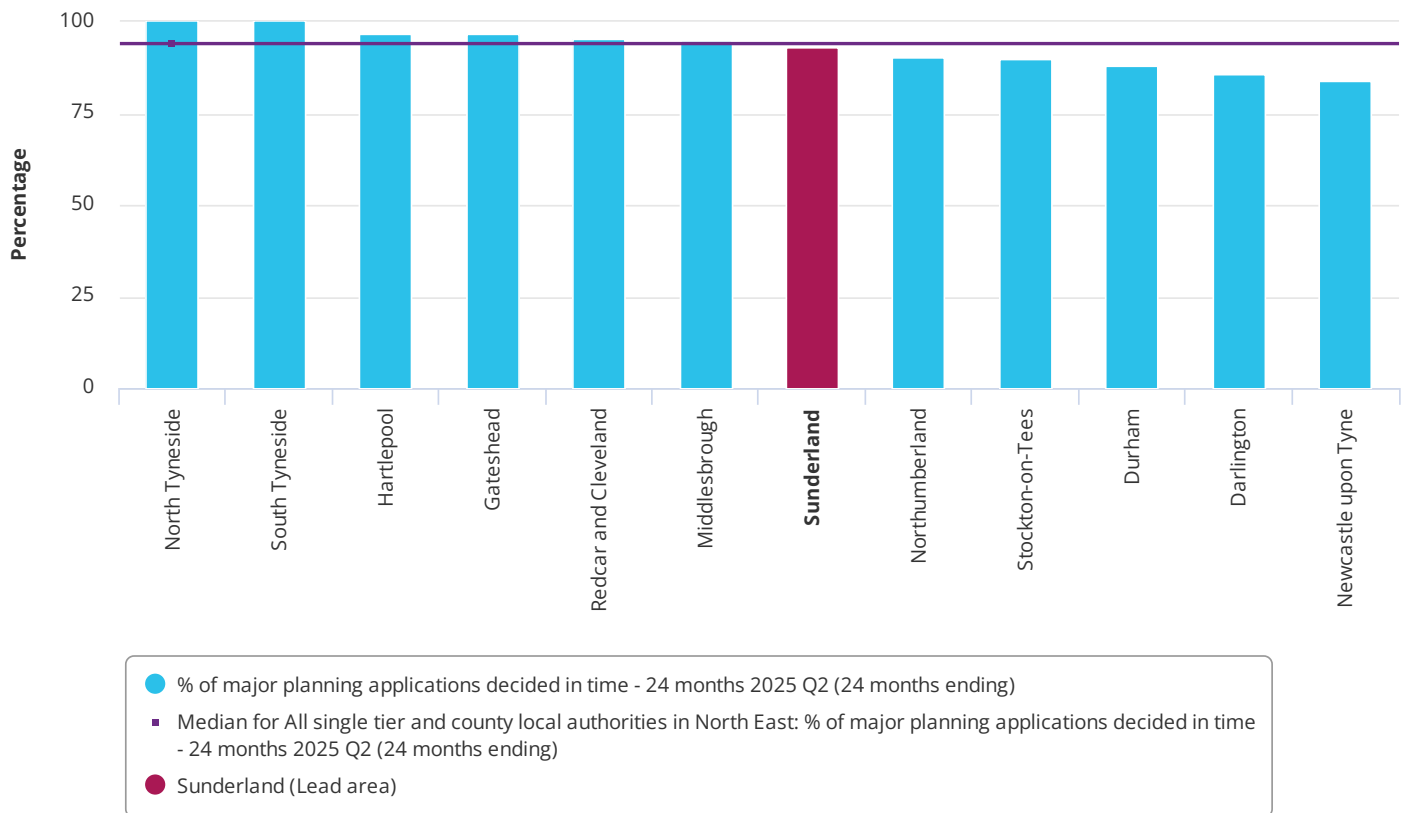
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Planning and development services per head of population \(RSX\)](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

Planning applications

The next two charts show the timeliness of the council's planning application decisions, and should be looked at together. If a council repeatedly fails to deliver planning decisions in a timely manner, it can lose its planning authority designation. Currently, councils have to determine 70 per cent of their non-major planning decisions and 60 per cent of their major planning decisions 'in time' over a two-year period. 'In time' means within eight weeks for non-major planning applications and 13 weeks for major applications.

In 2025 Q2 (24 months ending), Sunderland processed 93.0 per cent of planning applications for major developments (district matters) on time (within 13 weeks or agreed time). This compares to 90.4 per cent in England and an average of 92.9 per cent in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of all major development planning applications decided within 13 weeks or agreed time - 24 months (2025 Q2 (24 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

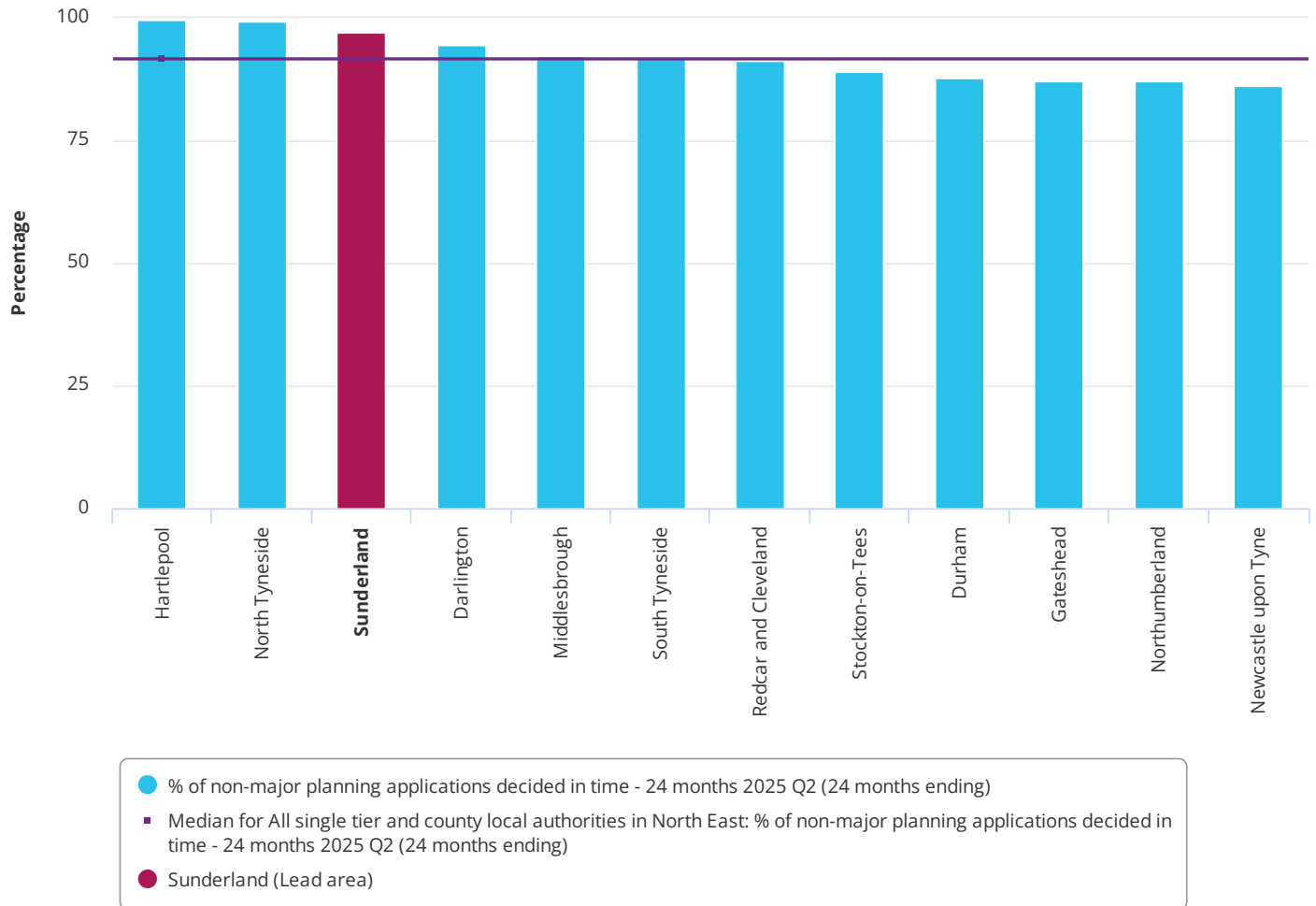


Source:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Development Control statistics, [Percentage of all major development planning applications decided within 13 weeks or agreed time - 24 months](#), **Data updated:** 23 Sep 2025

In 2025 Q2 (24 months ending) Sunderland processed 97.2 per cent of planning applications for non-major developments (district matters) on time (within eight weeks or agreed time). This compares to 90.2 per cent in England and an average of 92.0 per cent in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of all non-major development planning applications decided within 8 weeks or agreed time - 24 months (2025 Q2 (24 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Development Control statistics, [Percentage of all non-major development planning applications decided within 8 weeks or agreed time - 24 months](#) , **Data updated:** 23 Sep 2025

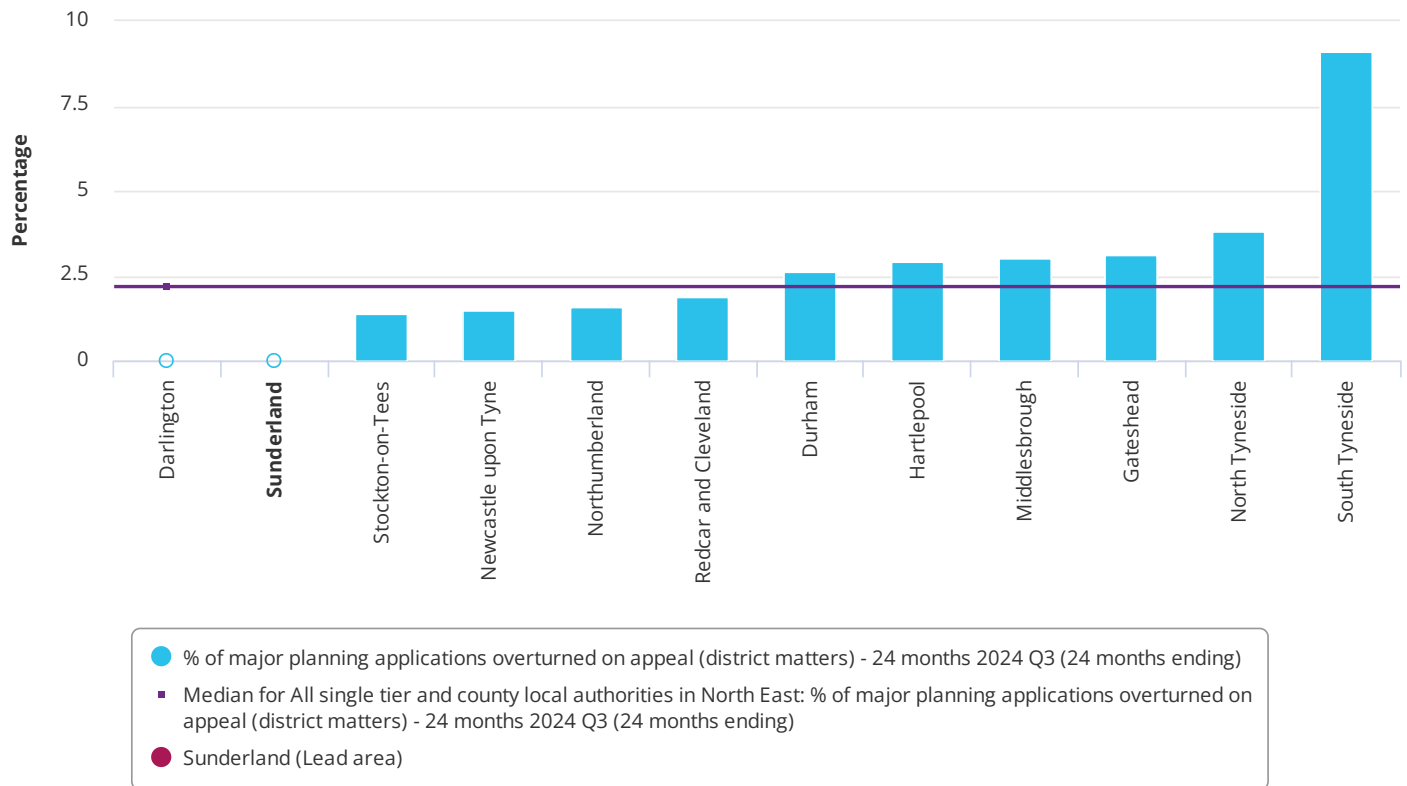
Major planning applications overturned on appeal

Councils are also measured by government on the quality of their decision-making. Under this measure a council cannot have more than 10 per cent of its major or non-major applications (measured separately) overturned at appeal. The next two charts show how is performing against both these targets.

Note, however, that the figure for major developments may be based on small numbers of decisions which can be misleading: an authority with only one appeal that is overturned will have a figure of 100 per cent!

In 2024 Q3 (24 months ending) 0.0 per cent of major planning applications overturned on appeal in Sunderland, compared to 2.6 mean in All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal (district matters) - 24 months (2024 Q3 (24 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

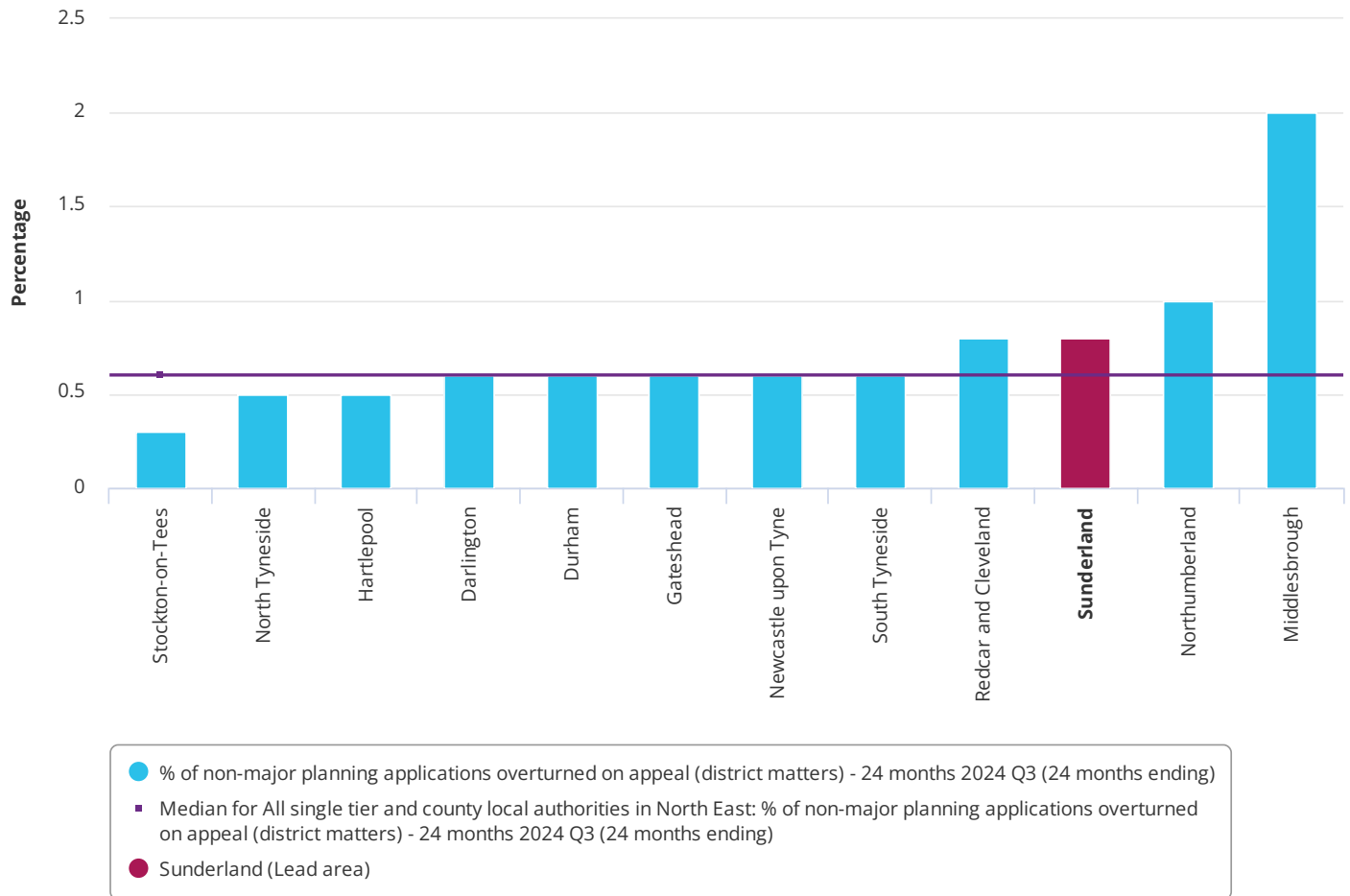


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Statistics - Quality of decisions, [Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal \(district matters\) - 24 months](#) , **Data updated:** 23 Sep 2025

Non-major planning applications overturned on appeal

In 2024 Q3 (24 months ending) 0.8 non-major planning applications were overturned on appeal in Sunderland, compared to 0.7 mean in All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal (district matters) - 24 months (2024 Q3 (24 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Statistics - Quality of decisions, [Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal \(district matters\) - 24 months](#), **Data updated:** 23 Sep 2025

Waste

The charts in this section relate to the generation of household waste and the rates of recycling. Note that, in two-tier areas where there is both a county and a district authority, the district is responsible for waste collection and the county for waste disposal. Therefore, in some charts the value may be zero or missing for these types of authority.

The factors that affect the amount of waste and recycling rates are complex. Performance can be influenced by council decisions, for example, whether they choose to collect food waste, collect all types of plastic, collect general waste on a weekly or fortnightly basis and invest in waste prevention. However, differences between councils may not simply be due to performance, but also to circumstances outside authorities' control. For example, research has shown the following:

- waste infrastructure, such as size of bin, amount of internal or external storage a resident has to keep waste, type of bin and method of collection are also important
- number of different types of materials collected, and proximity to recycling centres affect recycling levels
- housing type has a big impact on recycling rates, with flats and high density housing often having lower rates; and houses producing more garden waste.

And socio-economic factors include:

- level of occupancy of households
- levels of education or income
- how normalised the behaviour is across the community
- levels of satisfaction derived from recycling
- concern for the public good.

As a result, it is **often not appropriate to conclude the performance of a council simply based on a comparison** of its data with others of the same type; it is also important to understand the characteristics of the area and its population as well.

For more information about the factors affecting recycling, see:

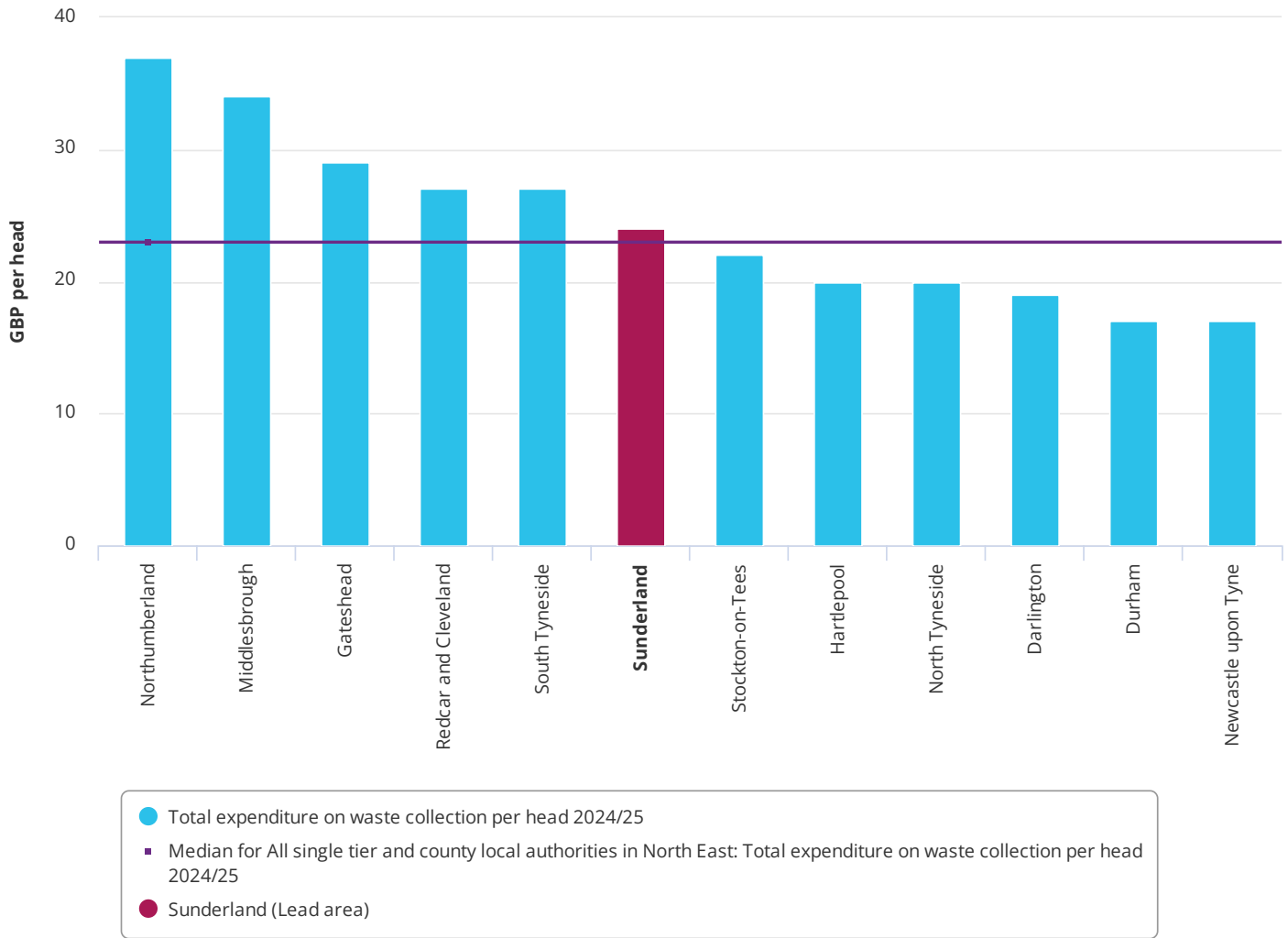
Abbott A., Nandeibam S. and O'Shea L. (2011), [Variations in household waste recycling across the UK](#)

Oluwadipe S., Garelick H., McCarthy S. and Purchase D. (2021), [A critical review of household recycling barriers in the UK](#)

The chart below shows the total expenditure on waste collection per head of population.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure on waste collection per head of population in Sunderland was £24,000, compared to £25,000 the average for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

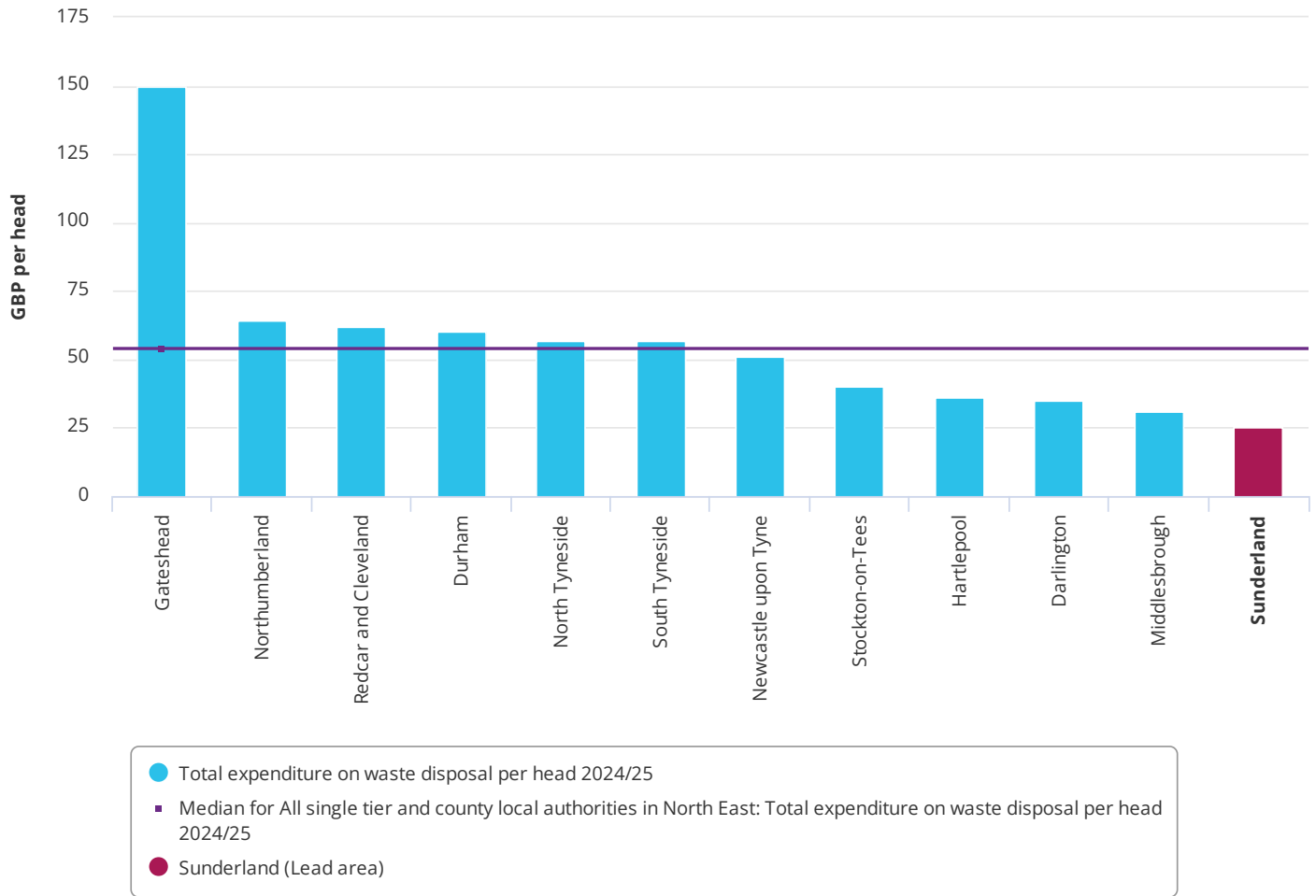
Total expenditure on waste collection per head (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue outturn cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning services (RO5), [Total expenditure on waste collection per head](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

In 2024/25 the total expenditure on waste collection per head of population in Sunderland was £25,000, compared to £56,000 the average for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure on waste disposal per head (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue outturn cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning services (RO5), [Total expenditure on waste disposal per head](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

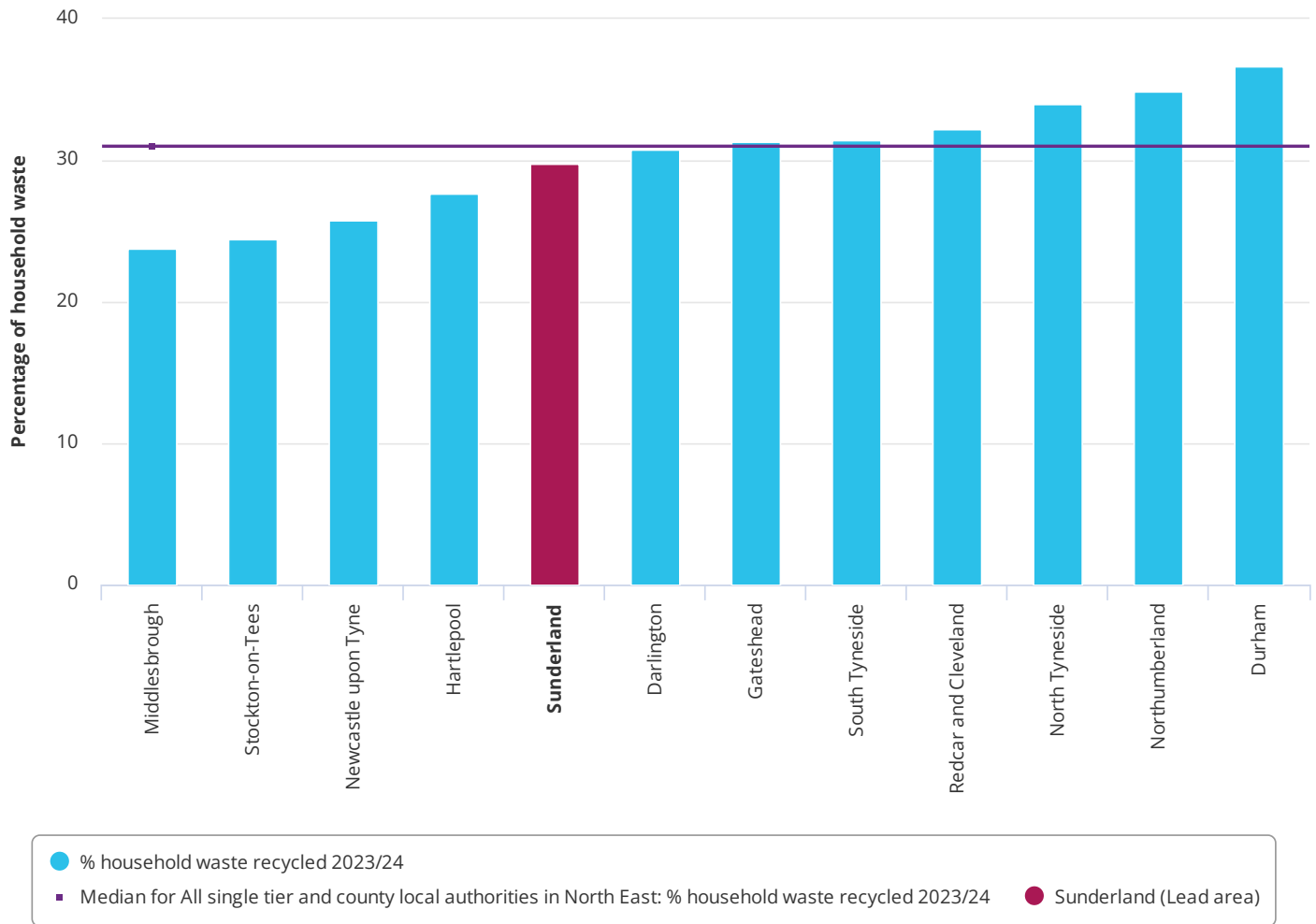
Household waste recycling rate

This is the percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion as a proportion of the total tonnage of household waste collected. 'Household waste' means those types of waste which are to be treated as household waste for the purposes of Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 by reason of the provisions of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992.

It should be noted that recycling rates are based on weight (tonnages). Garden waste is a heavy material and this can be a factor in higher recycling rates in areas with lots of gardens. In addition, lower recycling rates are often associated with areas with lots of flats, since it can be more difficult to store recycling, or it needs to be taken to communal, external locations.

In 2023/24, the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting for Sunderland was 29.80%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median percentage of 31.05%.

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



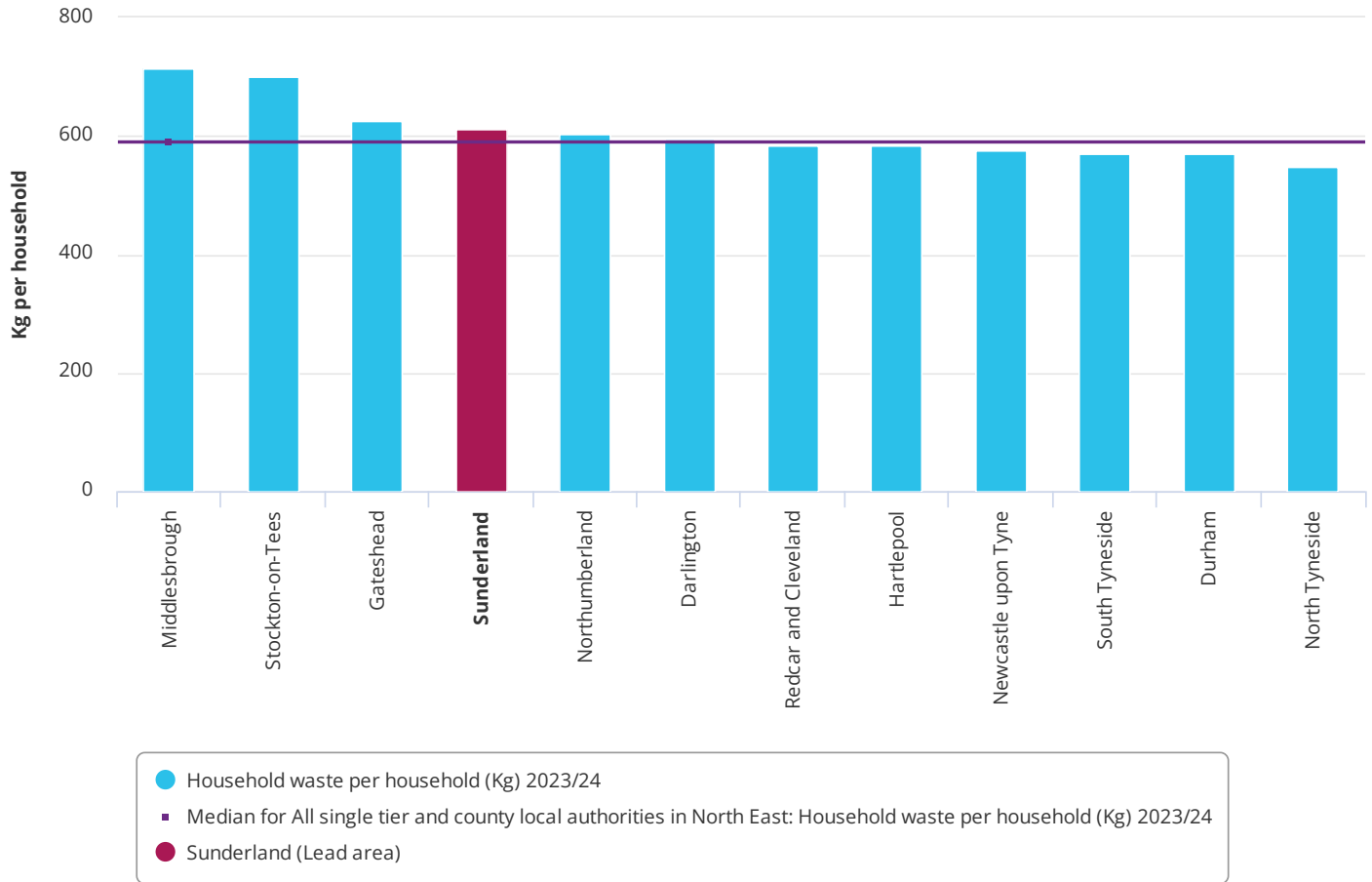
Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting](#), **Data updated:** 30 May 2025

Amount of residual household waste

This chart shows the number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household. Residual waste is any collected household waste that is not sent for reuse, recycling or composting.

In 2023/24, the amount of residual household waste collected per household for Sunderland was 613.10 kilograms, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median amount of 589.55 kilograms per household.

Residual household waste per household (annual) (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Residual household waste per household \(annual\)](#),

Data updated: 30 May 2025

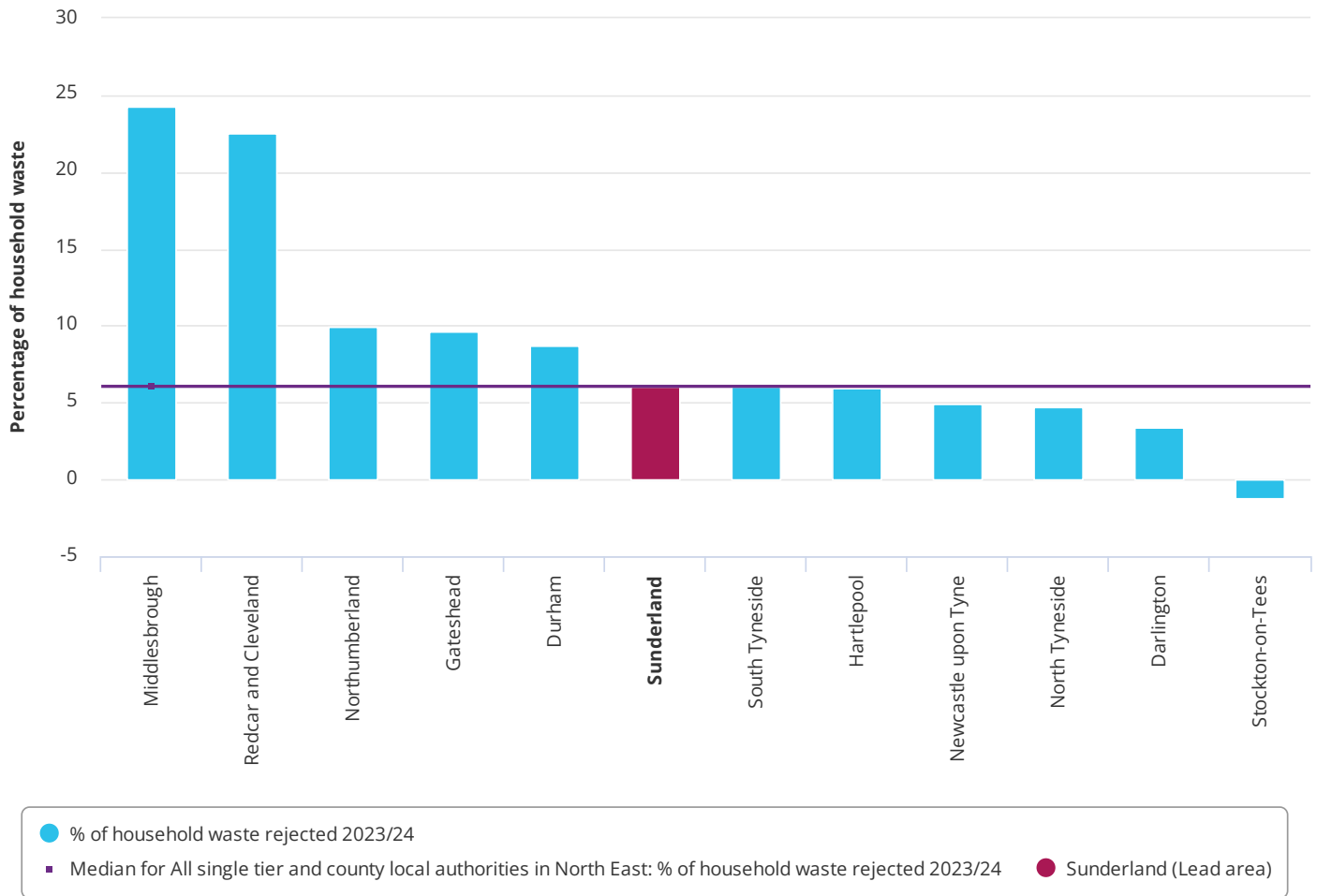
Household recycling contamination rate

Contamination is the action of polluting a waste stream with anything that shouldn't be there. This includes general waste items going into a recycling bin (placing a glass bottle into a mixed paper recycling bin for example), or when materials are not properly cleaned, such as when food residue remains on a plastic yogurt container.

The chart below shows the estimated amount of household recycling that is rejected, as a percentage of all waste intended to be recycled. Waste intended to be recycled is the sum of household waste sent for recycling plus estimated rejects. Household estimated rejects is calculated from total household waste not sent for recycling minus household waste collected not with the intention for recycling (the difference between total unrecycled waste and waste that was not intended to be recycled).

In 2023/24, the proportion of household waste contaminated/rejected for Sunderland was 6.07%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 6.04%.

Percentage of household waste rejected (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



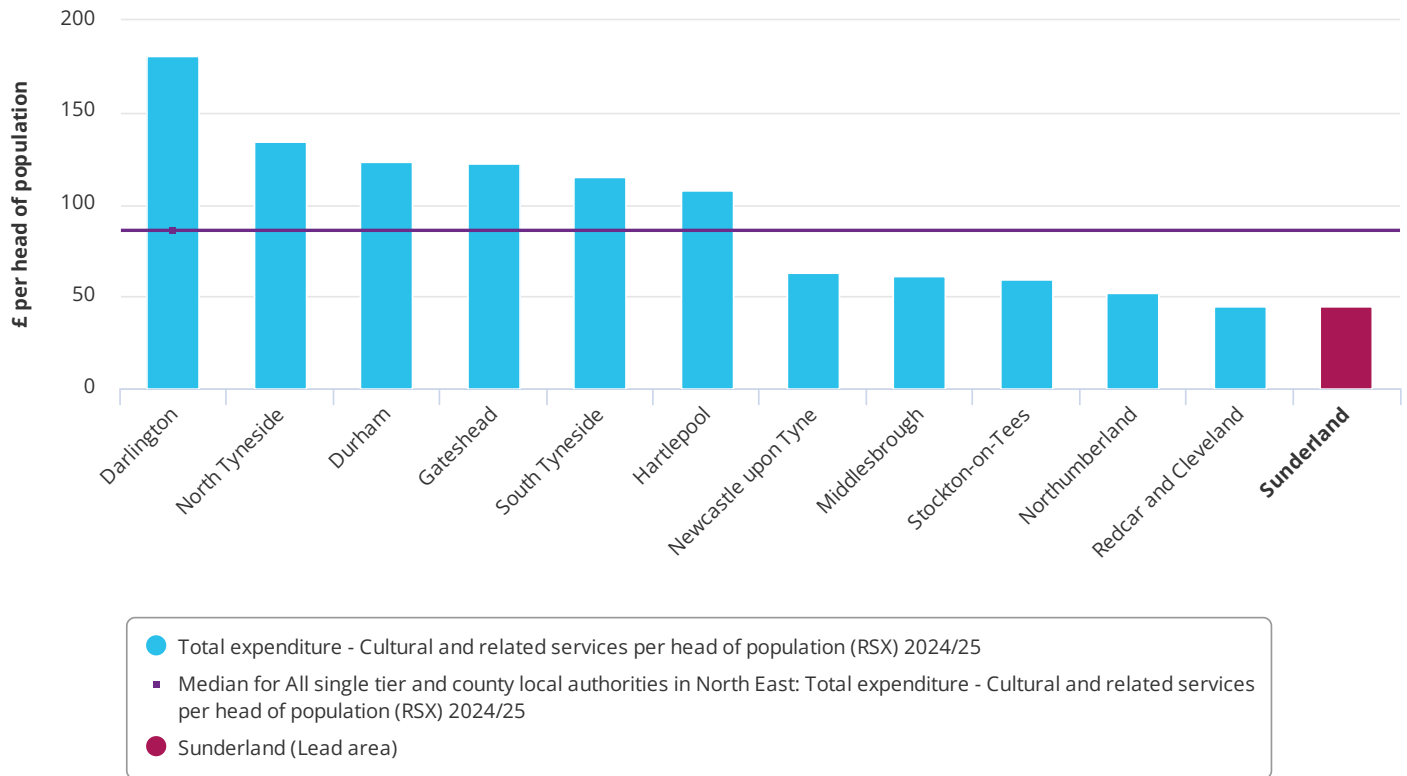
Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Percentage of household waste rejected](#), **Data updated:** 01 Apr 2025

Cultural and leisure services

The chart below shows expenditure per head on cultural and related services, which includes archives, culture and heritage, tourism, library services, recreation and sport and open spaces.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure on cultural and related services per head of population in Sunderland was 44.48, this is compared to the mean of 92.36 in All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Cultural and related services per head of population (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

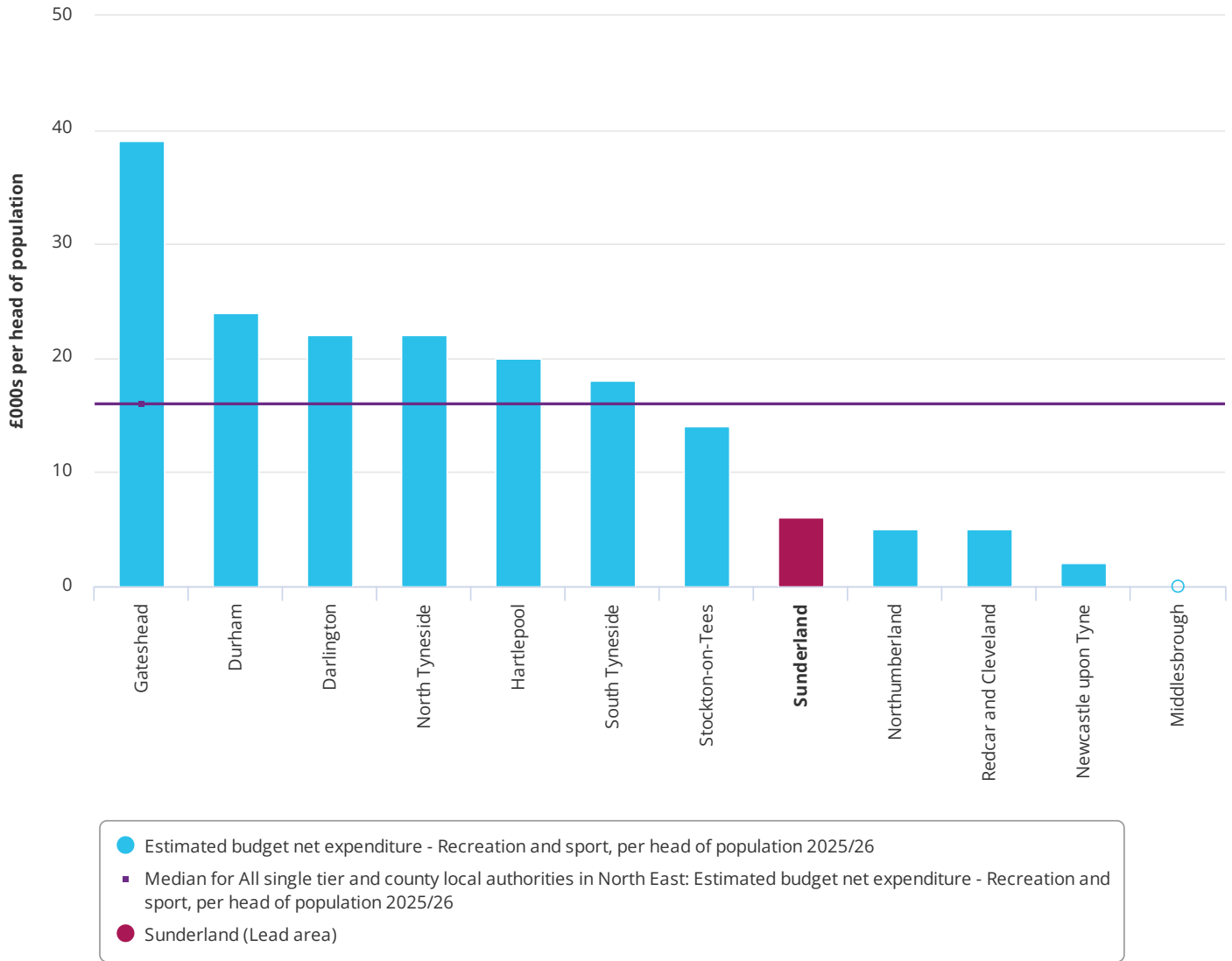


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Cultural and related services per head of population \(RSX\)](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

The chart below looks at one element of the overall expenditure on cultural and related services, specifically, the spend on recreation and sport per head. This should be viewed in the context of both the corporate plan priorities (for example, is a healthy resident population a key ambition and, if it is, how does recreation and leisure play into this if there is a lower spend compared to other similar authorities), as well as against individual performance metrics for that service. The metrics in the next section, on public health, enable you to question any relationship between health and obesity and expenditure on recreation and sport'.

In 2025/26 Sunderland's estimated net budget on recreation and sport was £1,609,000. The chart below shows this figure per 1000 of the resident population, compared to your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Estimated budget net expenditure - Recreation and sport, per head of population (2025/26) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



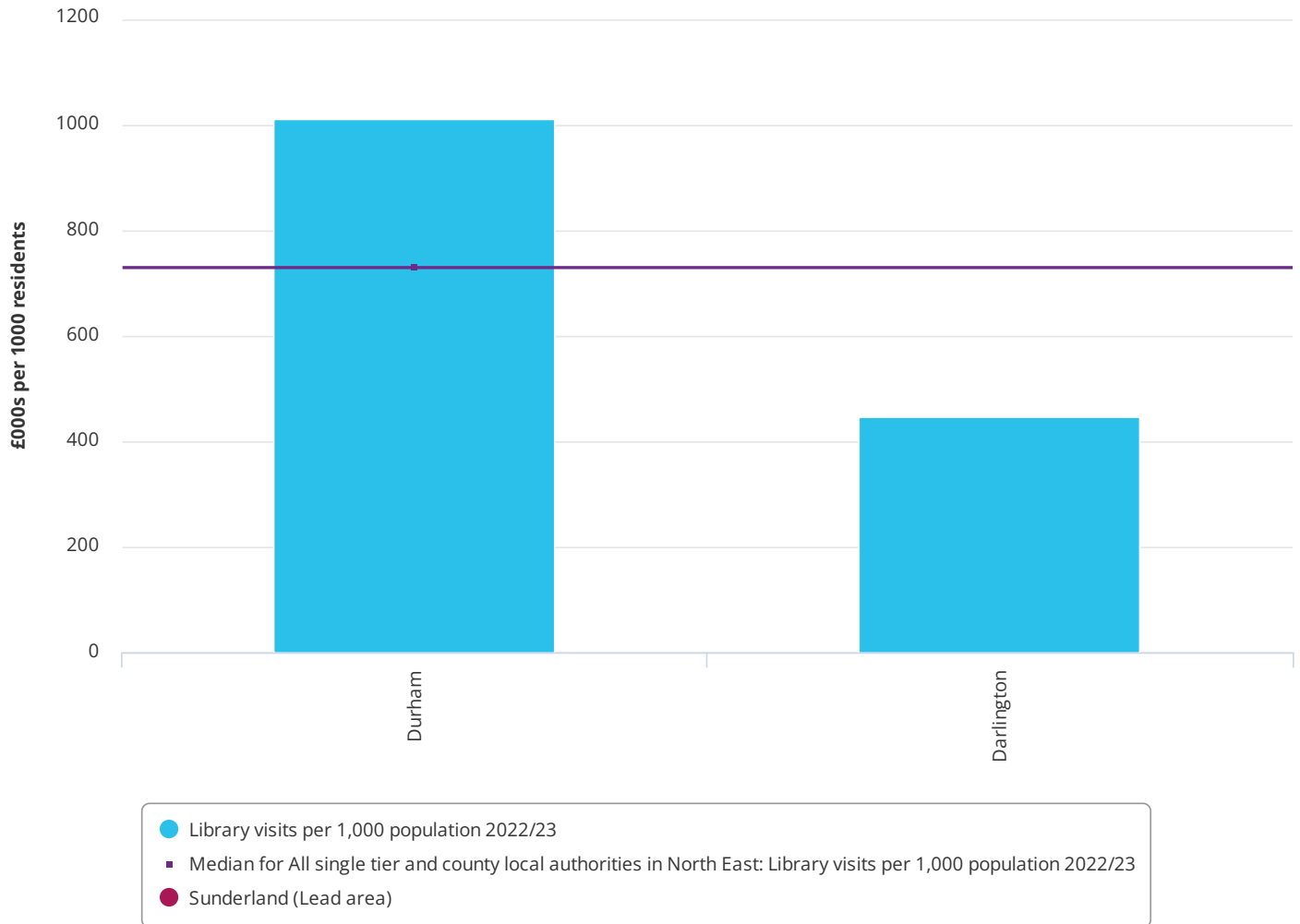
Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Estimated budget net expenditure - Recreation and sport, per head of population](#) , **Data updated:** 06 Aug 2025

Data for library indicators is not recorded for all authorities, as it is a voluntary measure, so there is a small number of comparator authorities.

In 2022/23 the Number of physical visits to libraries per 1,000 population in Sunderland was **Missing**. This compares to an average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Number of physical visits to libraries per 1,000 population (2022/23) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

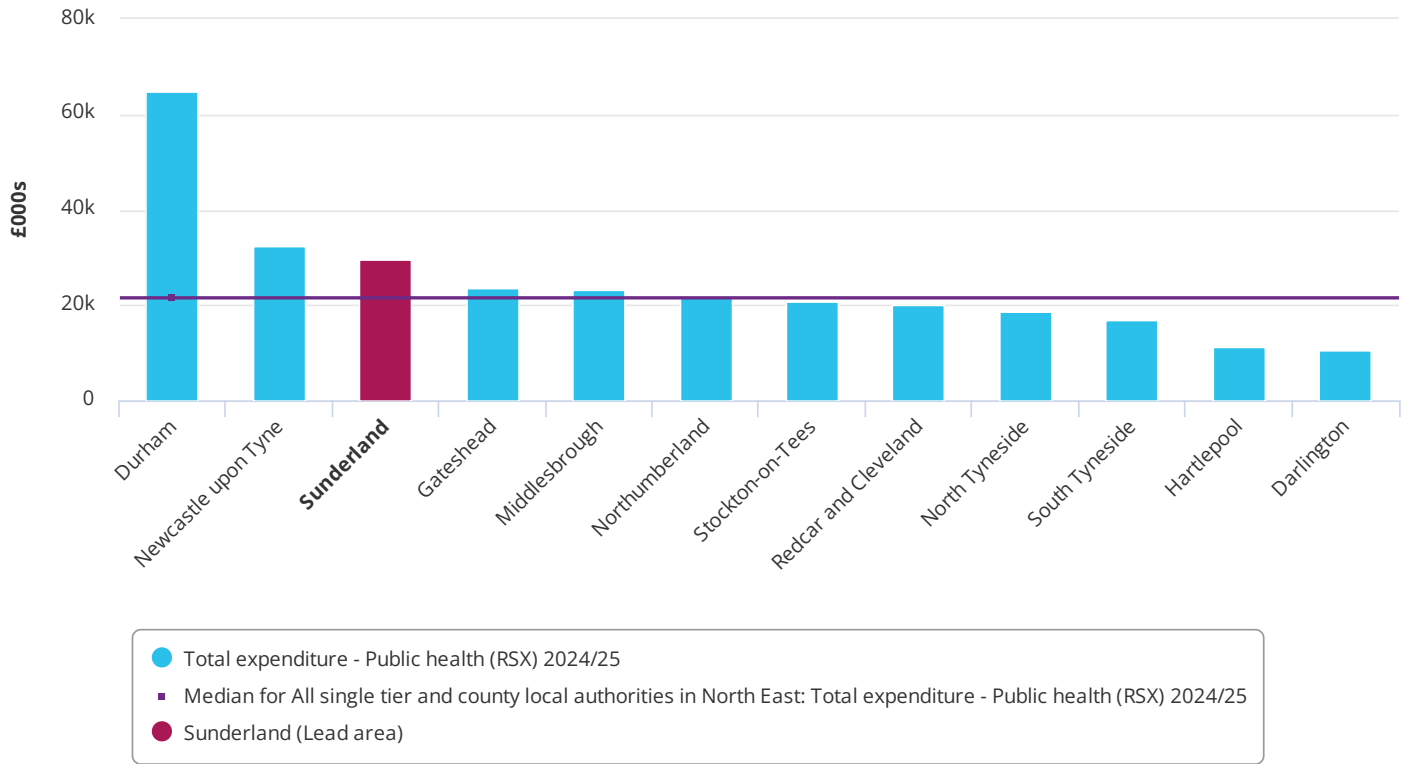
CIPFA Statistical Information Services, Public Library Statistic, [Number of physical visits to libraries per 1,000 population](#) , **Data updated:** 28 Aug 2024

Public health services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on public health, including employee costs and running expenses. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure in public health was £29,731,000 in Sunderland, compared to £24,491,000 the mean for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

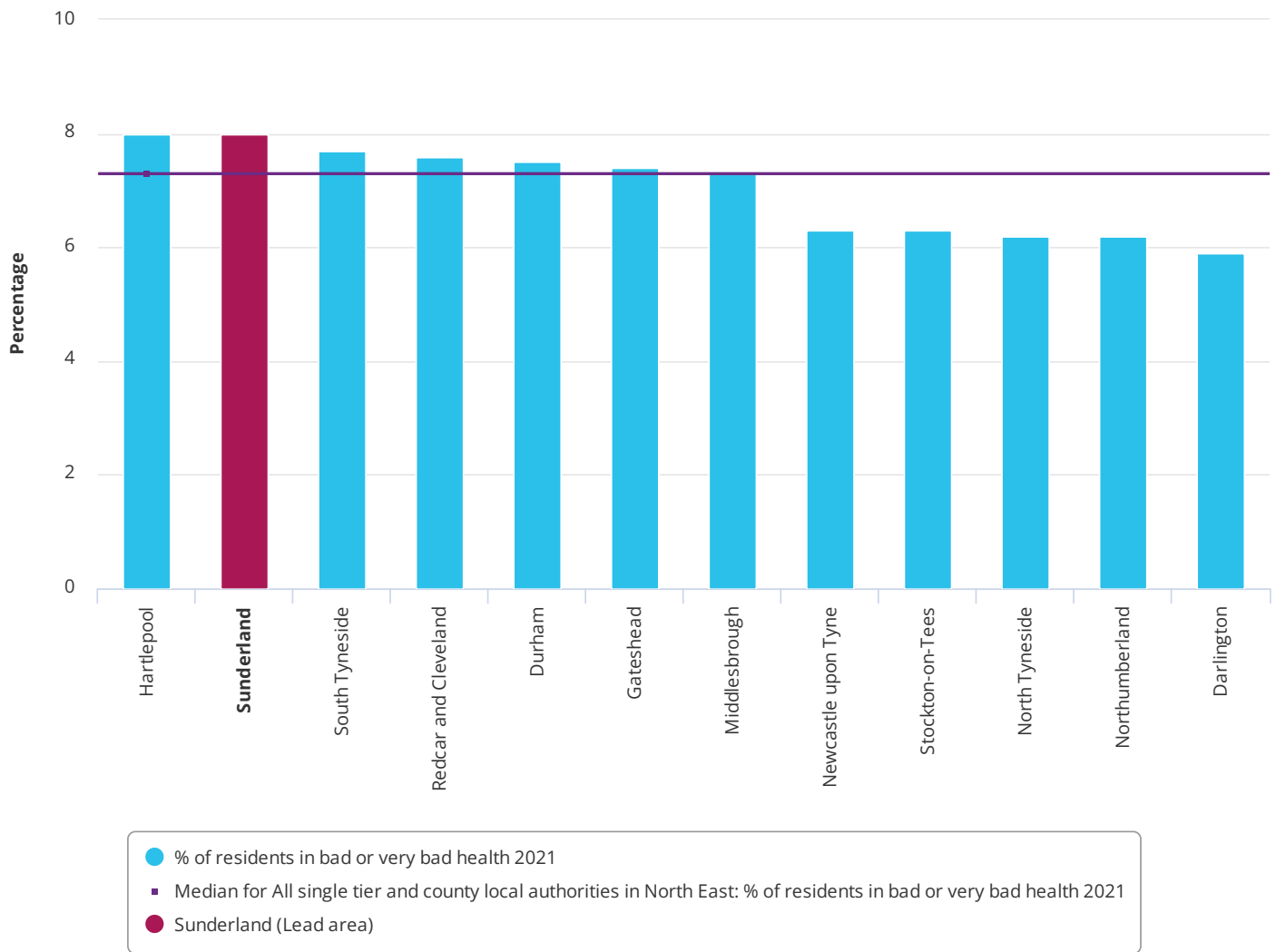
Total expenditure - Public health (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Public health \(RSX\)](#), **Data updated:** 21 Oct 2025

According to the 2021 Census 8.0 per cent of people in the Sunderland area said they were in bad or very bad health. This compares to 5.2 per cent in England and 7.0 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Proportion of usual residents in bad or very bad health (2021) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

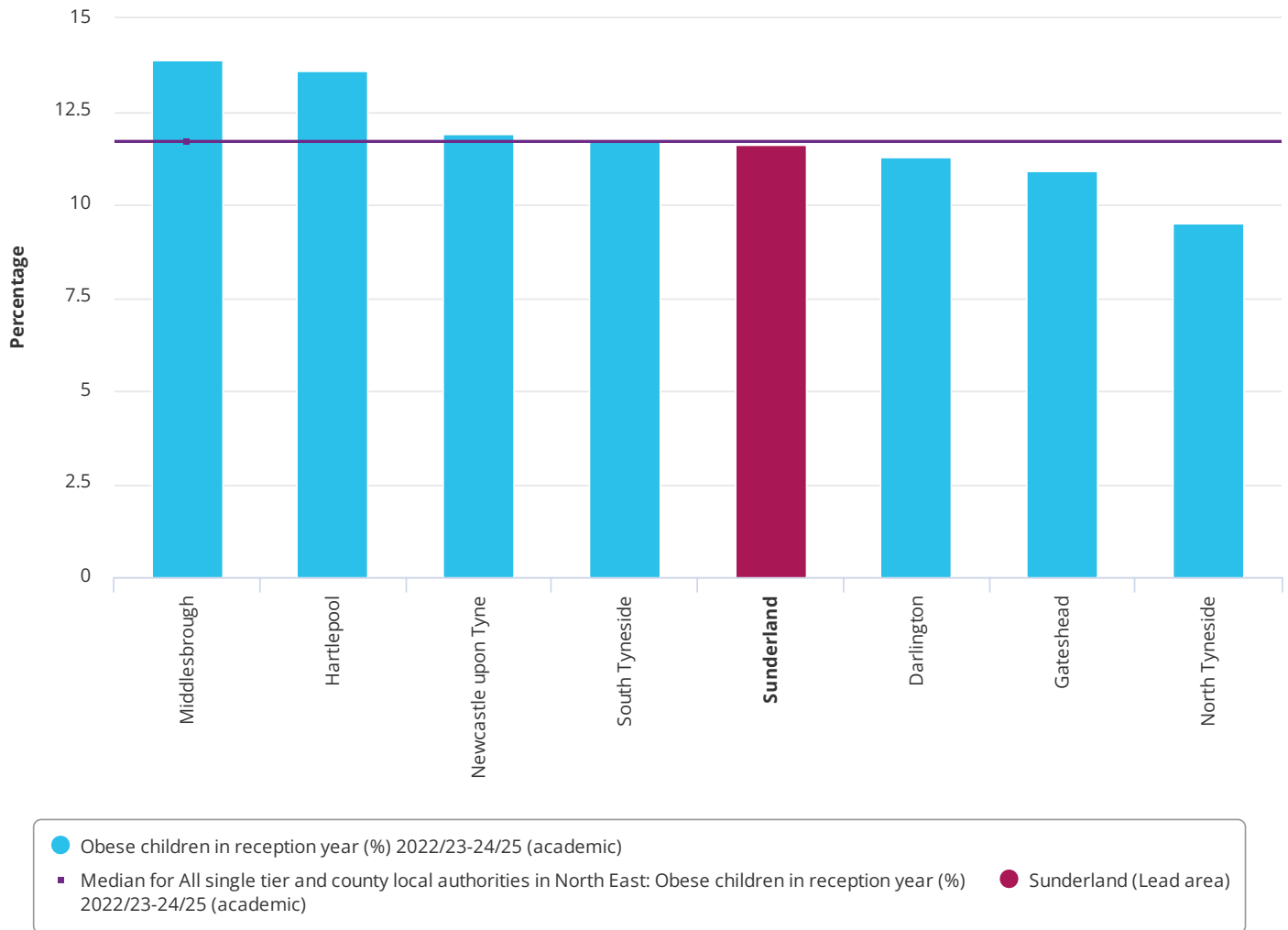


Source:

Office for National Statistics, Census, [Proportion of usual residents in bad or very bad health](#) , **Data updated:** 02 Apr 2024

In 2022/23-24/25 (academic), 11.6 per cent of children in year 6 in Sunderland were classified as obese, including severe obesity. This is based on 3 years of measurement, based on the child's area of residence. This compares to 9.8 per cent in England and an average of 11.8 per cent in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

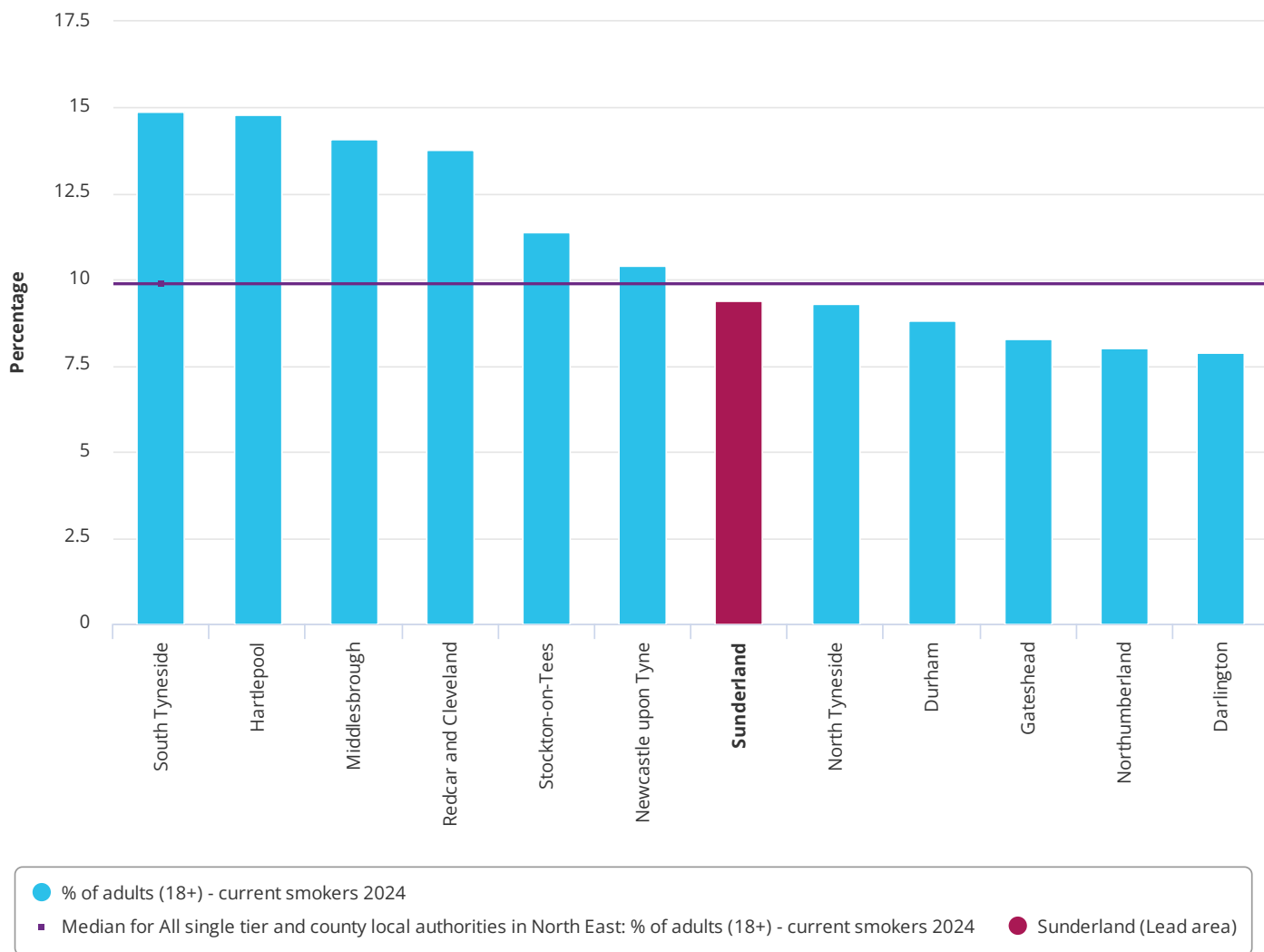
Percentage of children in reception year classified as obese, including severe obesity (2022/23-24/25 (academic)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data, % of measured children in reception year classified as obese, **Data updated:** 04 Nov 2025

In 2024 the Smoking prevalence in adults - current smokers (APS) in Sunderland was 9.4 . This compares to 10.4 in England and 10.9 on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Smoking prevalence in adults - current smokers (APS) (2024) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



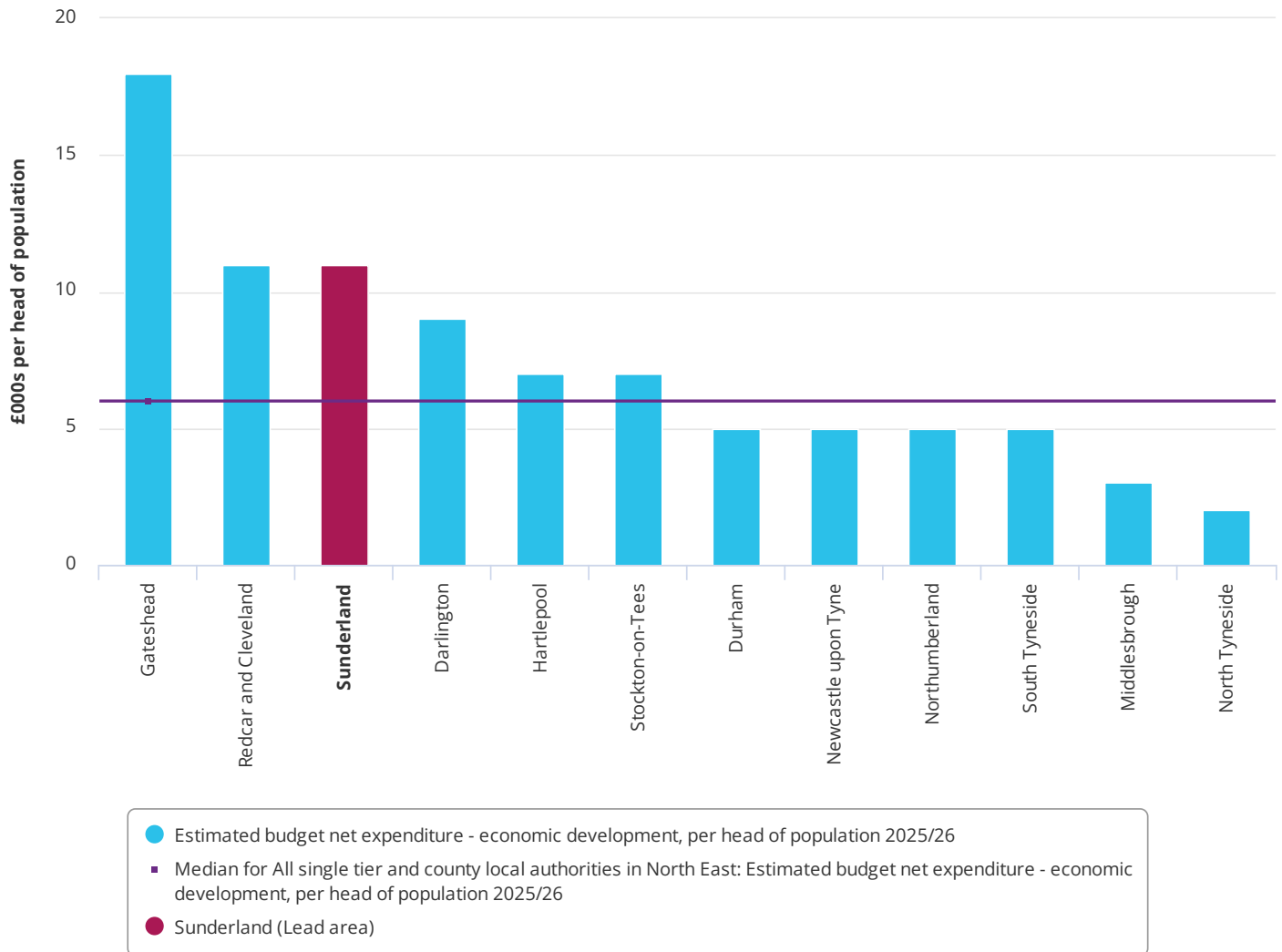
Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Smoking Profile, [Smoking Prevalence in adults - current smokers \(APS\)](#) , **Data updated:** 04 Nov 2025

Economic development

The chart below shows the estimated budget net expenditure on economic development per head of population. It is worth noting that economic development is not a statutory service.

In 2025/26 Sunderland City Council's estimated net budget on economic development was £3,067,000. The chart below shows this figure per 1000 of the resident population, compared to your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Estimated budget net expenditure - economic development, per head of population (2025/26) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

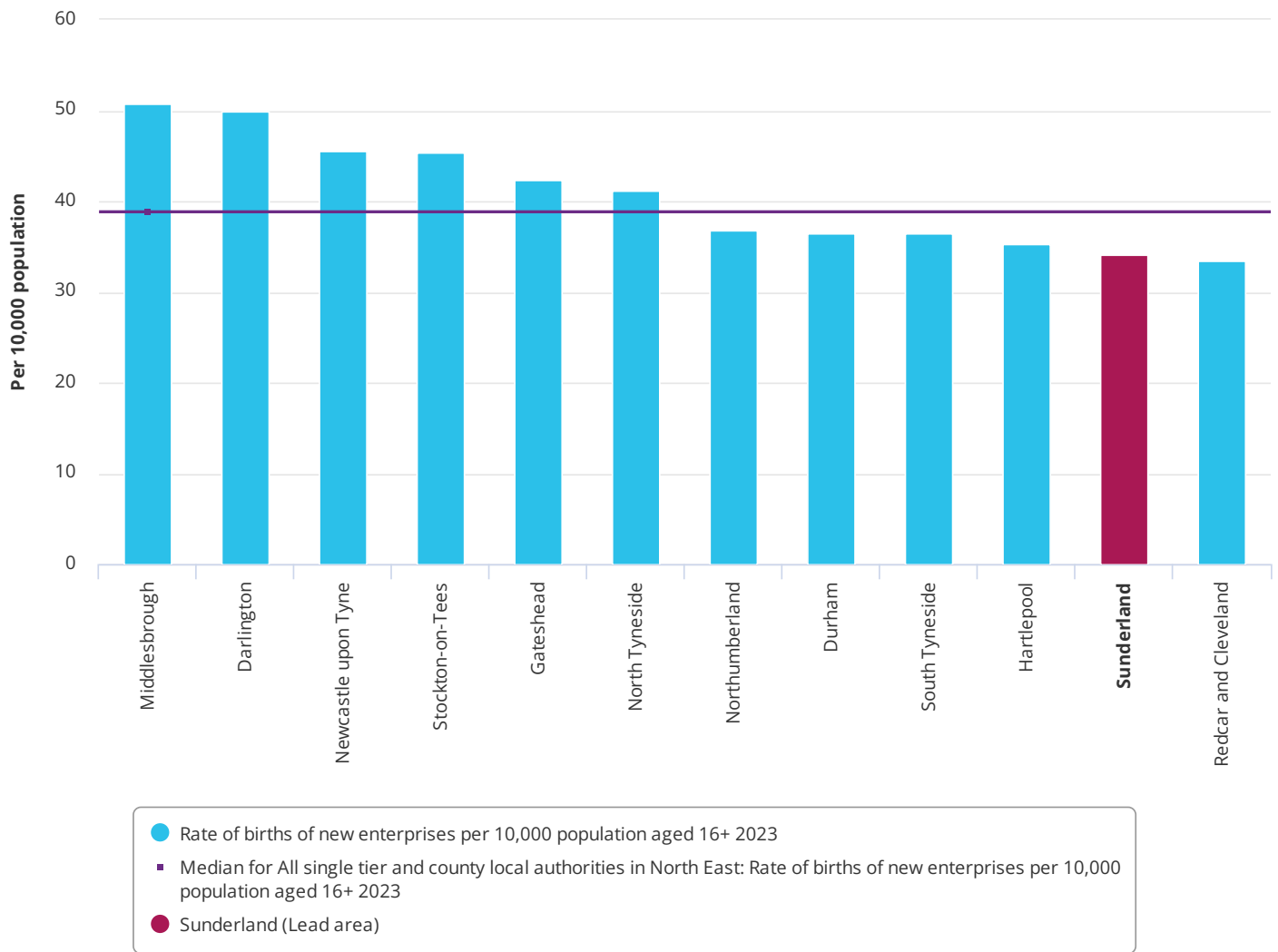


Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Estimated budget net expenditure - economic development, per head of population](#), **Data updated:** 06 Aug 2025

In 2023, there were 34.2 new businesses registered per 10,000 of the resident population age 16 and above in the Sunderland area. This compares to 59.7 per 10,000 in England and 40.6 per 10,000 on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Rate of births of new enterprises per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above (2023) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

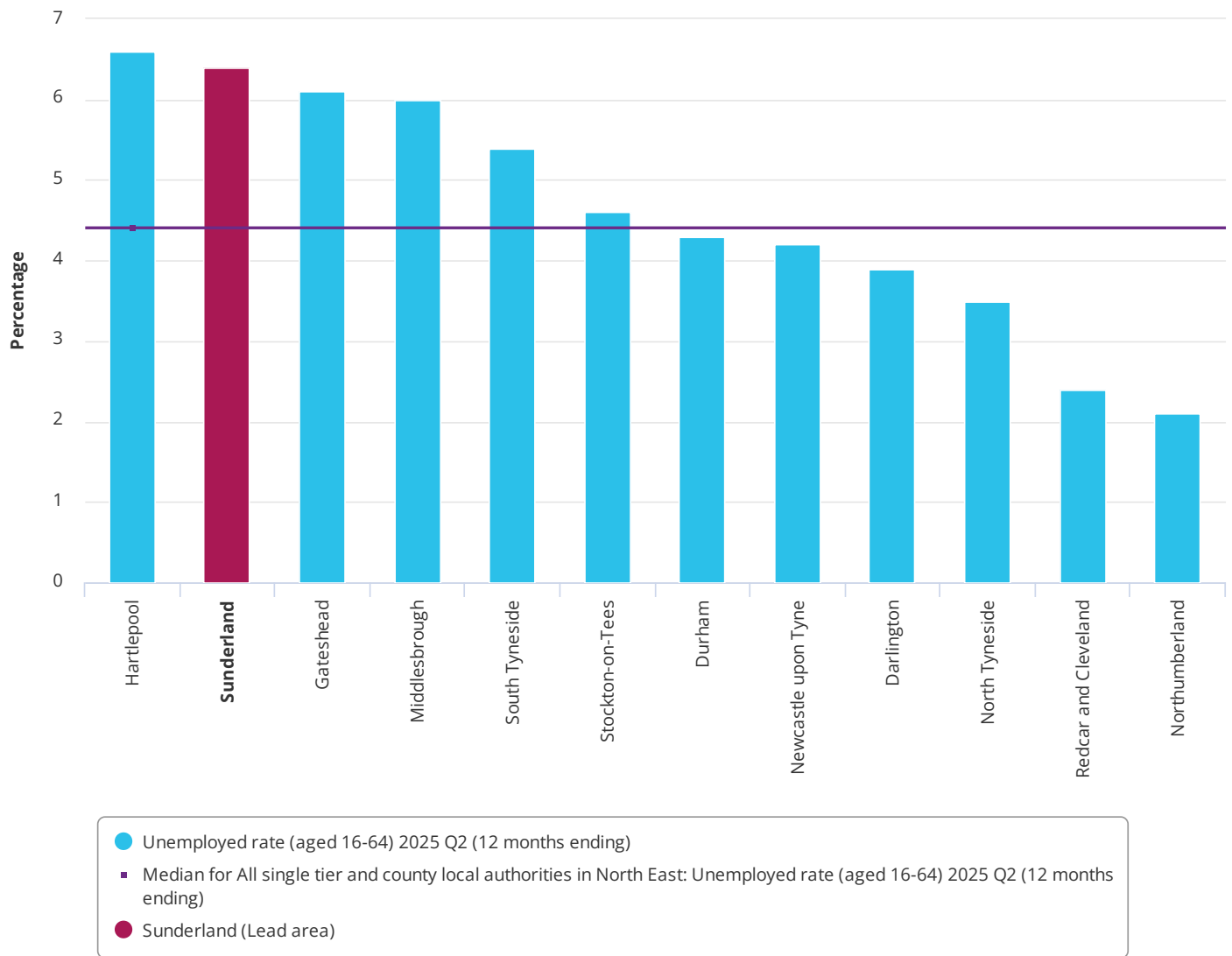


Source:

Office for National Statistics, **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

In 2025 Q2 (12 months ending) 6.4 per cent of people of working age were unemployed in the Sunderland area. This compares to 4.2 per cent in England and 4.6 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Population - Percentage of people of working age who are unemployed (2025 Q2 (12 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

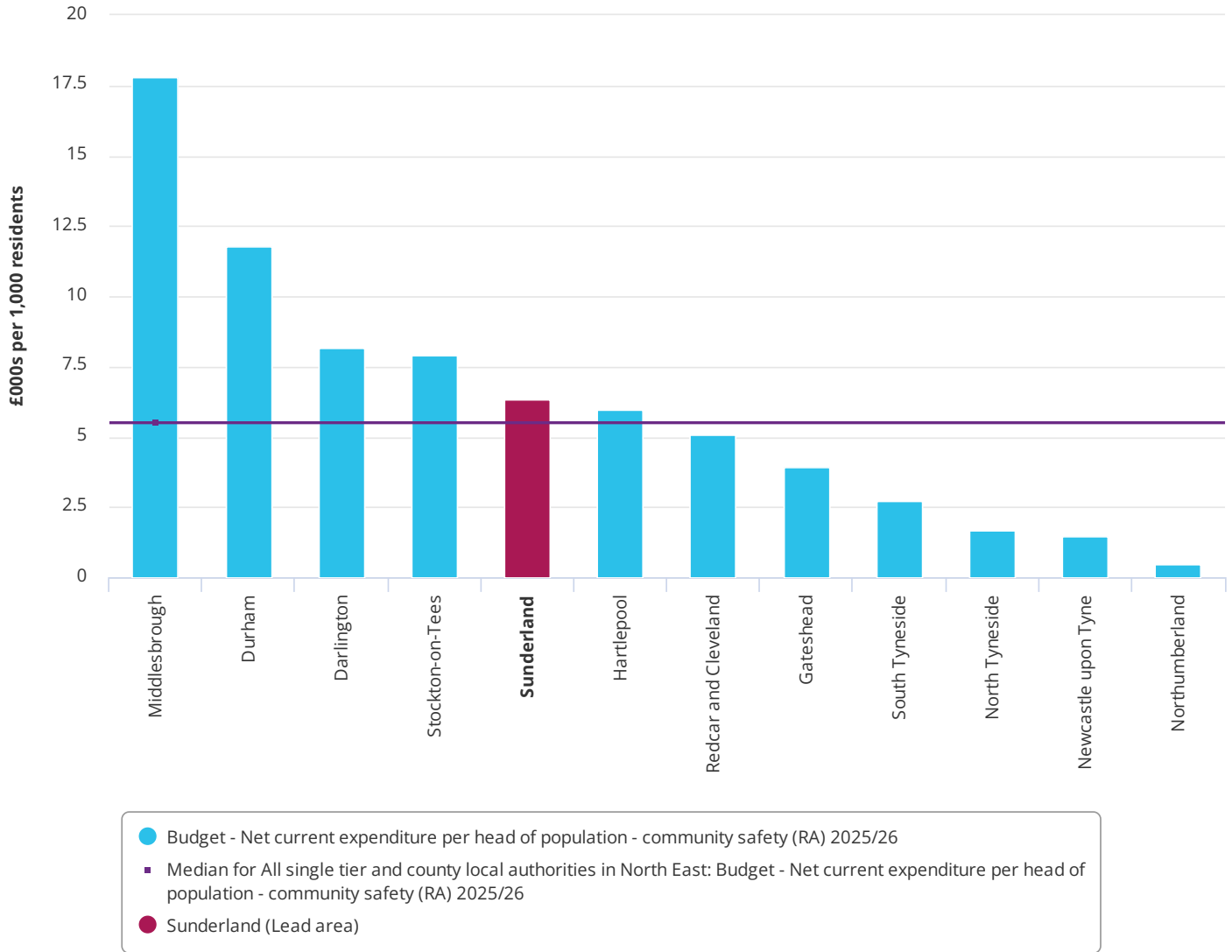
Nomis, Annual Population Survey, [Population - Percent of people of working age who are unemployed](#), **Data updated:** 14 Oct 2025

Community safety

The chart below shows the estimated budget net expenditure on community safety.

In 2025/26, Sunderland City Council had an estimated net budget of **£6.31** per thousand residents on community safety. Compared to your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

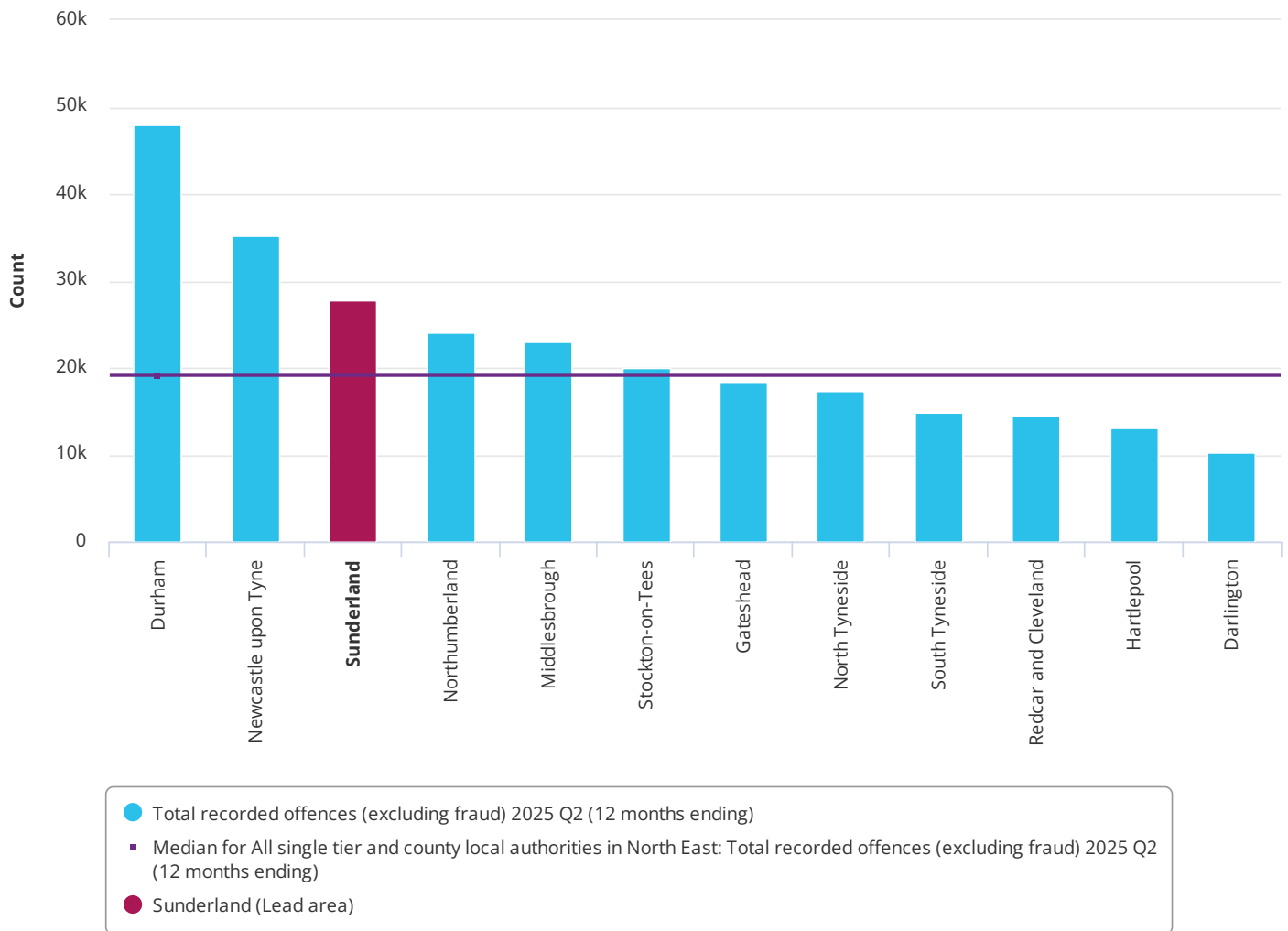
**Budget - Net current expenditure per head of population - community safety (RA) (2025/26)
for All single tier and county local authorities in North East**



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Budgeted Revenue Accounts, [Budget - Net current expenditure per head of population - community safety \(RA\)](#) , **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

In 2025 Q2 (12 months ending) there were 27,827 recorded offences (excluding fraud) per 1000 people in the Sunderland area. This compares to 22,216 on average within your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East. Data is not available for all councils, therefore the value will show "Missing", if it is not available for your selected council.

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (2025 Q2 (12 months ending)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



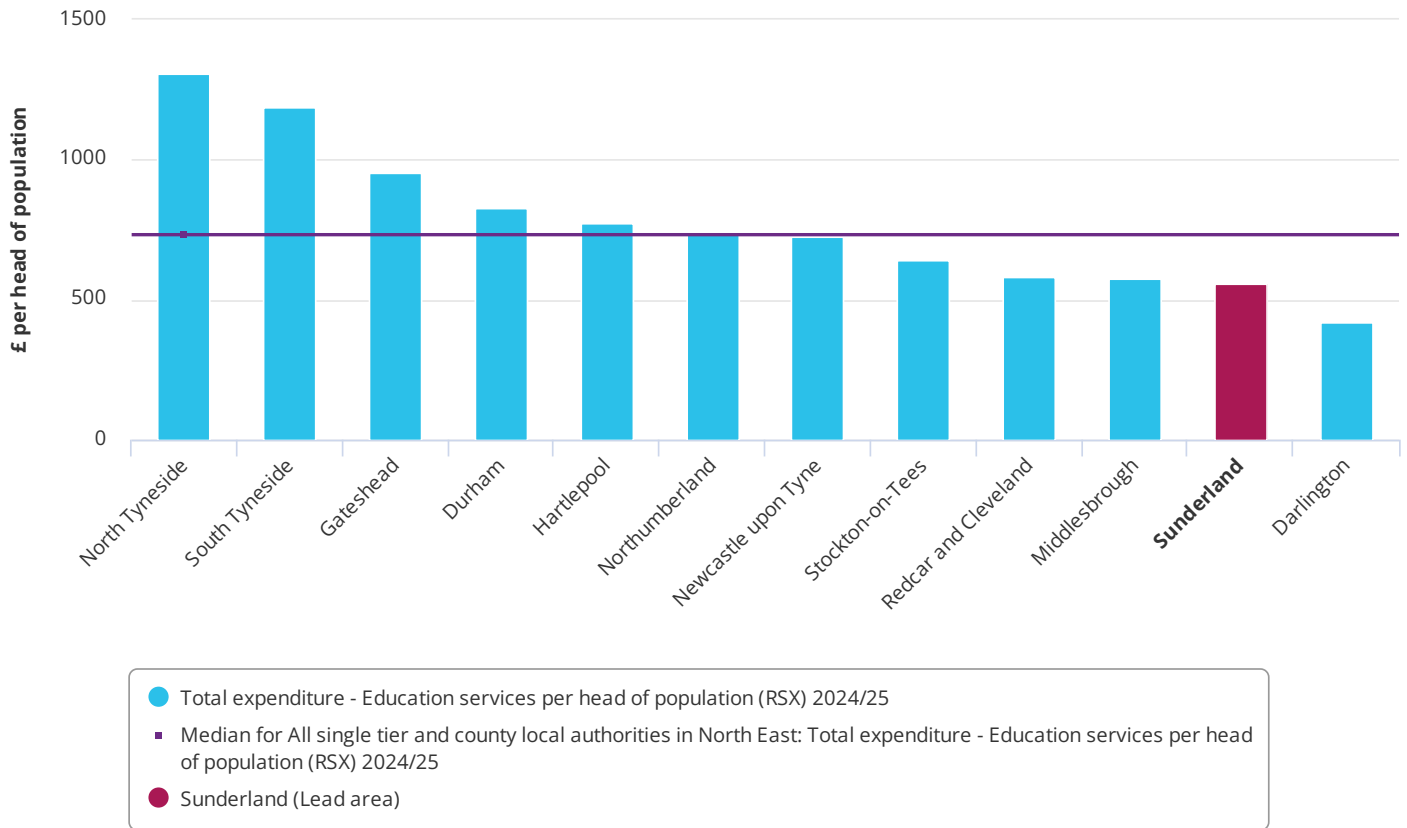
Source: Office for National Statistics, Local police recorded crime data, [Crime - Total recorded offences \(excluding fraud\) - quarterly](#), **Data updated:** 23 Oct 2025

Education and skills

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on education, including on early years, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and alternative provision, post-16 provision and other education and community budget. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure per head of population was 555.76 for Sunderland, compared to 774.83, the mean for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Education services per head of population (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

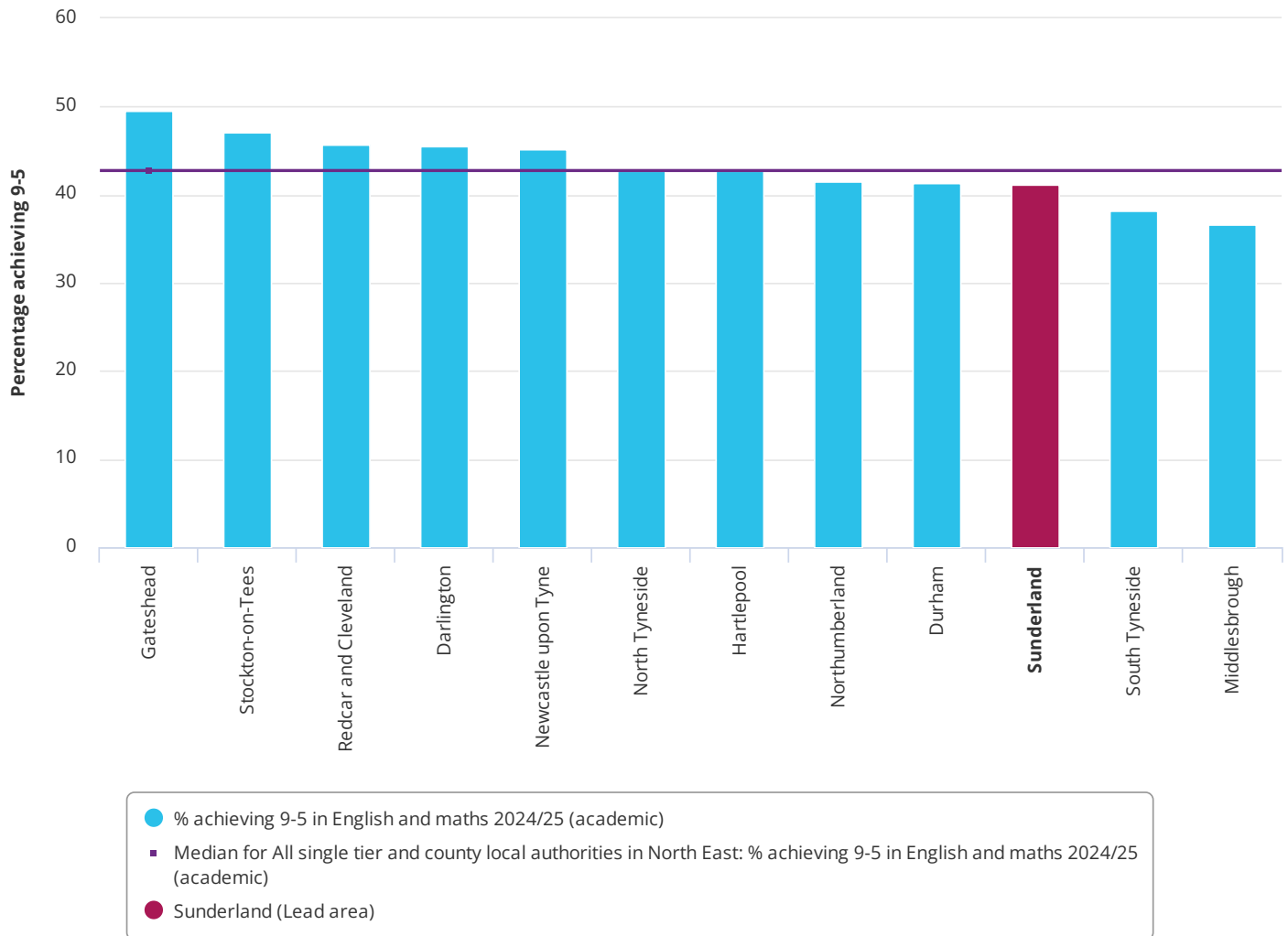


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Education services per head of population \(RSX\)](#) ,
Data updated: 11 Nov 2025

GCSEs English and Maths

In 2024/25 (academic) 41.1 per cent of pupils in Sunderland achieved grades 9 to 5 in GCSEs English and Maths. This compares to 45.2 per cent in England and 43.1 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage achieving 9-5 in English & mathematics (2024/25 (academic)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Department for Education, Key stage 4 performance, [Percentage achieving 9-5 in English & mathematics](#) , **Data updated:** 17 Oct 2025

NEETs - not in employment, education or training

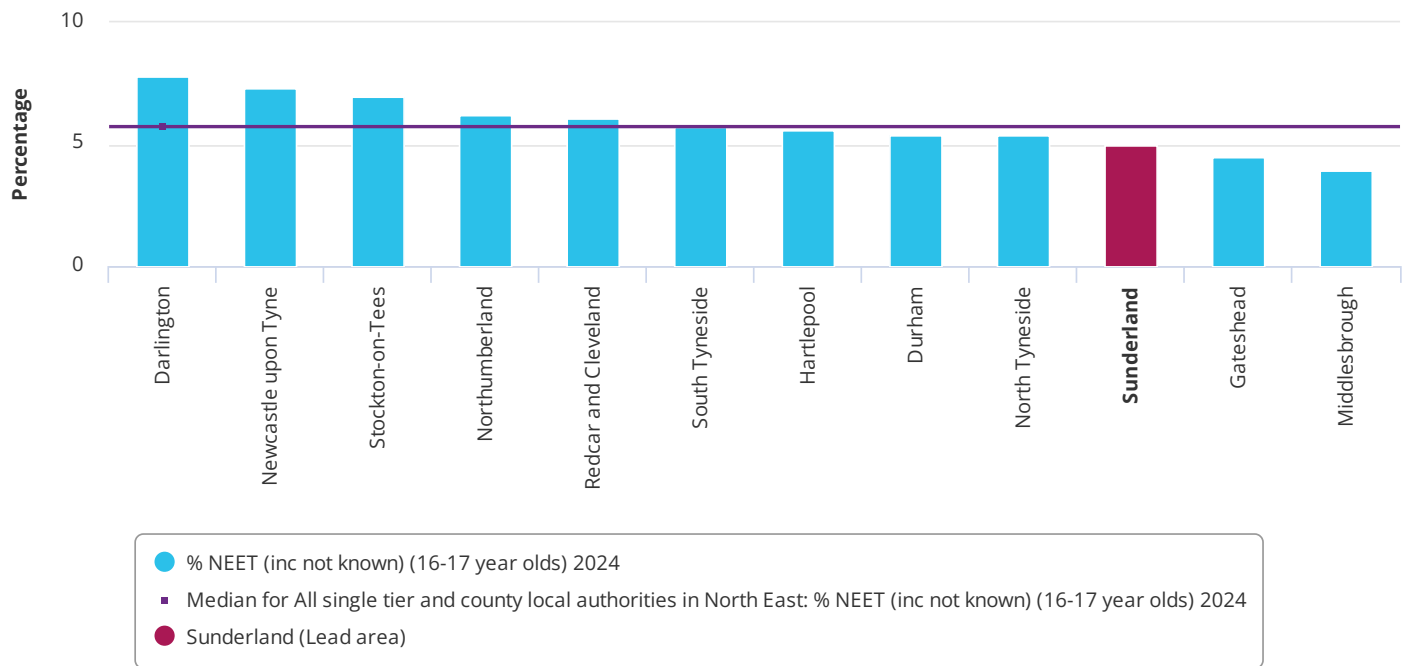
The chart below shows the proportion of young people in not in employment, education or training (NEET). It should be noted that recent research has shown there are some factors increasing the likelihood of young people being NEET which are outside a council's direct control. These are whether a young person has had special educational needs and no academic qualification above level 1a; and whether they have a limiting disability or poor mental health, are two 'clusters' recognised within the research. In addition, other groups more likely to become NEET are young people from low-income households, young people who identify as bisexual or 'other' when asked about their sexuality, young people from Black ethnic groups and young people with Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds. The research is available here:

[New research identifies the key risk factors for young people becoming NEET](#)

In 2024 5.0 per cent of 16 to 17 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Sunderland area. This compares to 5.4 per cent in England and 5.8 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

This includes young people educated in other authority areas, students living away during term time. Young people who were not educated in the maintained sector will only be included if they are known to the authority.

Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), or their activity was not known (2024) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

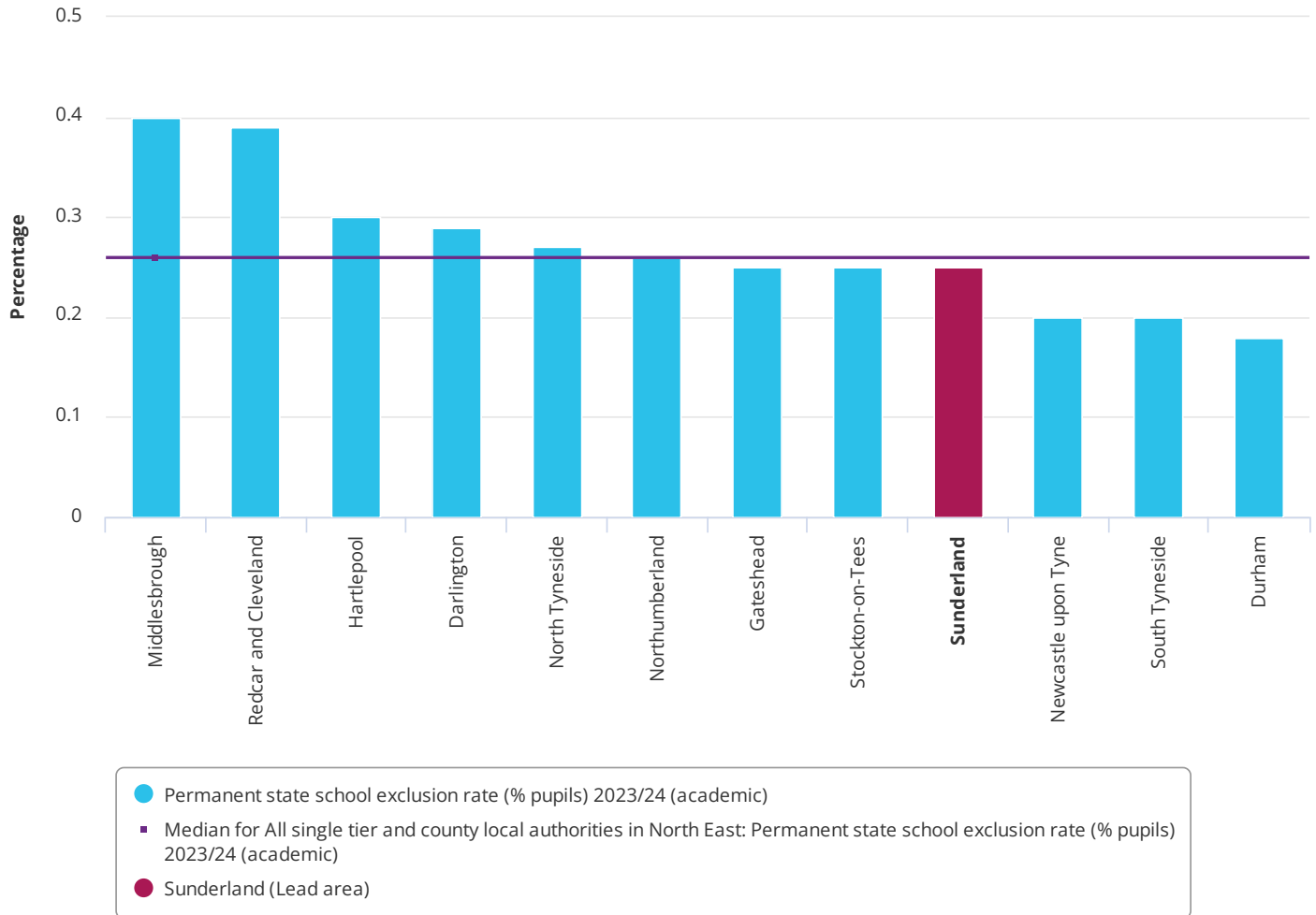


Source: Department for Education, NEET and participation, [Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training \(NEET\), or their activity was not known](#), **Data updated:** 11 Feb 2025

Permanent exclusions

In 2023/24 (academic) the rate of Permanent exclusions from state schools as a % of pupils in Sunderland was 0.25% . This compares to 0.13% in England and 0.27% on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Permanent exclusions from state schools as a % of pupils (2023/24 (academic)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Department for Education, Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England, [Permanent exclusions from state schools as a % of pupils](#) , **Data updated:** 23 Jul 2025

Further education and skills achievements per 100,000 population aged 19 to 64

This chart shows the rate of the population aged 19 to 64 per 100,000 in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification or above. The learners are those who participated in a funded further education and skills course (including apprenticeships) at any point during the full academic year (August to July). The learners counted are a total of those doing Basic Skills (English and maths), Level 2, Full Level 2 (equivalent to a National Vocational Qualification at Level 2, or 5 GCSEs), Level 3, Full Level 3 (equivalent to a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3, or 2 A-Levels), Level 4+, apprenticeships and courses with 'No level assigned'. Learners undertaking more than one course will appear only once in the total; and the location is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Figures exclude learners where the location is outside of England or unknown; and privately funded training.

The data in this chart includes apprenticeships, which are paid jobs that incorporate on-the-job and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Completing an apprenticeship is known to be beneficial to an individual's future employment, earnings and career development when compared with apprentices who do not complete them.

There are some factors which are associated with the likelihood of an apprenticeship being completed, and they may extend to other further education qualifications and skills. Factors which make apprenticeship completion more likely include: the sex of the apprentice (women are more likely to complete an apprenticeship than men), an apprenticeship with a large employer, training from public sector organisations, the focus of the apprenticeship (those studying for selected technical subjects are more likely to complete them) and living in an area with a high local unemployment rate.

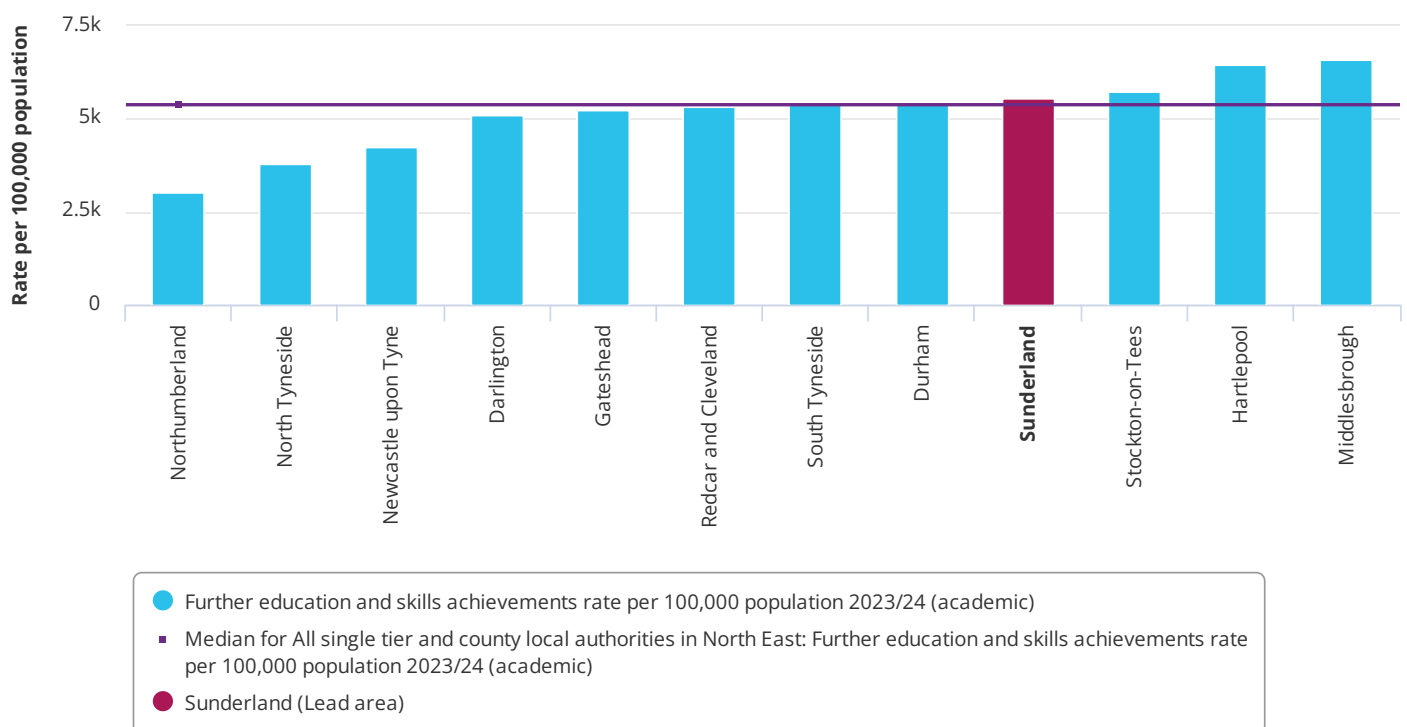
Factors which make completion less likely include living in a deprived area and/or sparsely populated area where transport may be an issue in terms of sufficiency or affordability. Some of these characteristics are outside of a councils' control, and should be considered when comparing one council's results with another.

For more information about the factors affecting the completion of apprenticeships, see:

Grieg, M. (2019), [Factors affecting Modern Apprenticeship completion in Scotland - International Journal of Training and Development](#)

In 2023/24 (academic), the rate of the population aged 19-64 per 100,000 population in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification or above for Sunderland was 5,572, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median rate of 5,370 per 100,000 population.

Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population (2023/24 (academic)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

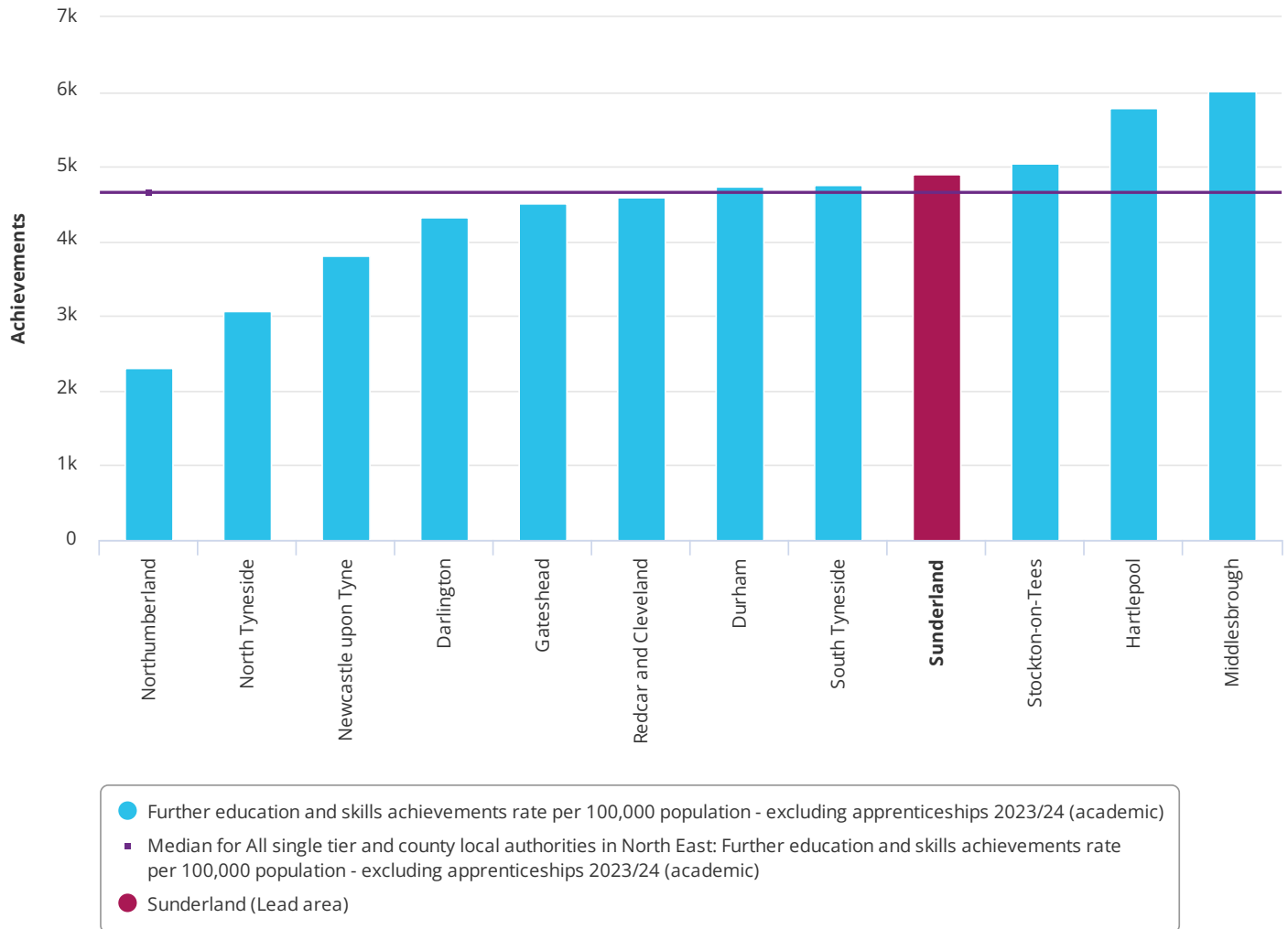
Department for Education, Further education and skills, [Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population](#) , **Data updated:** 13 Dec 2024

Further education and skills achievements per 100,000 population aged 19 to 64 (excluding apprenticeships)

This chart shows the rate of the population aged 19 to 64 per 100,000 in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification, but excludes apprenticeships. The apprenticeships data represents a sizeable proportion of the total achievement figure for an area, so excluding apprenticeships gives a better indication of the other further education achievements.

In 2023/24 (academic), the rate of the population aged 19-64 per 100,000 population in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification excluding apprenticeships for Sunderland was 4,907, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median percentage of 4,658 per 100,000 population.

Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population - excluding apprenticeships (2023/24 (academic)) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population - excluding apprenticeships](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

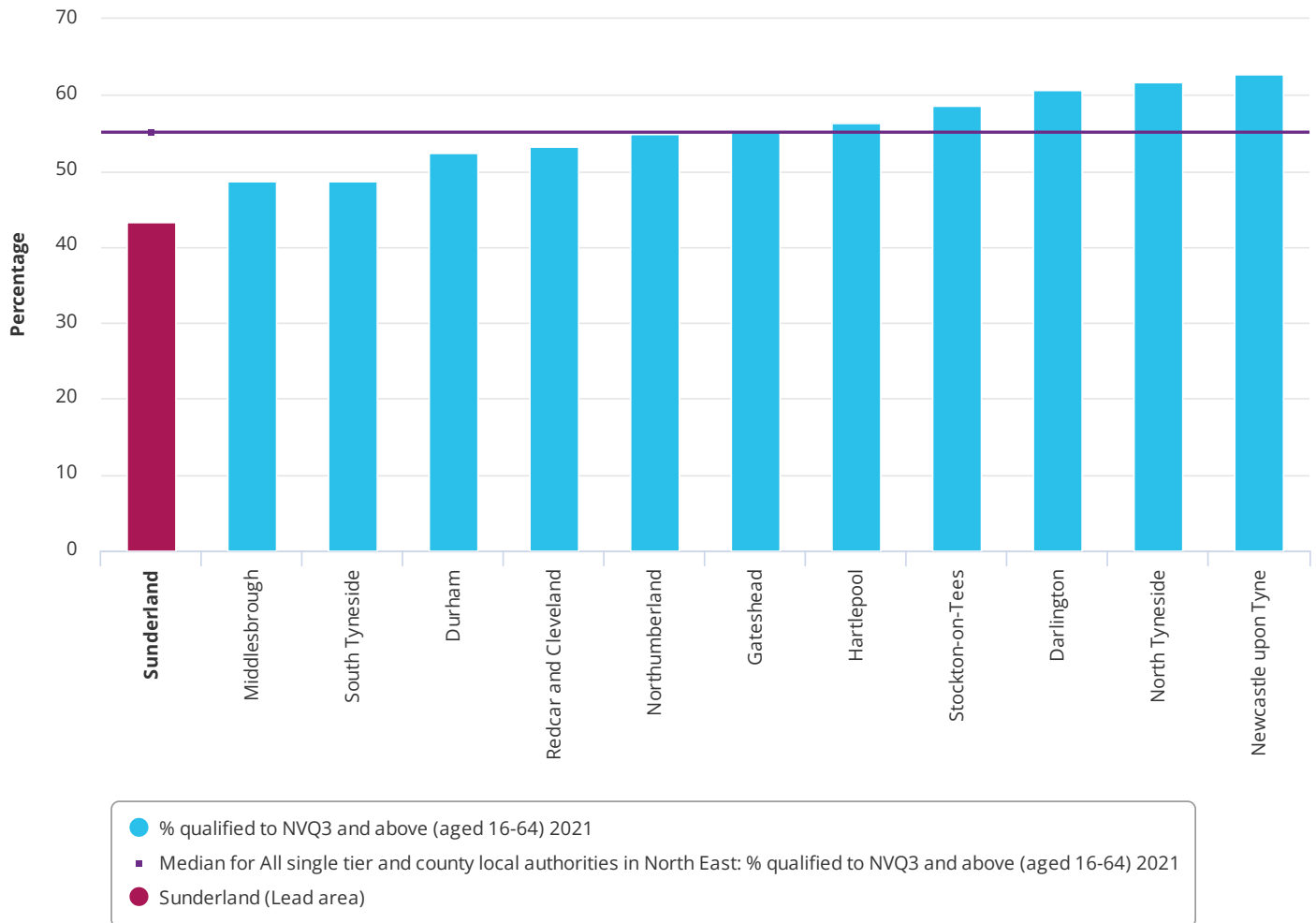
Adults with a Level 3 qualification or higher

This chart shows the percentage of the population in an area aged 16-64 that hold a qualification at Level 3 or above. People are counted as being qualified to level 3 or above if they have achieved either at least 2 A-levels grades A-E, or 4 A/S levels graded A-E, or any equivalent (or higher) qualification in the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Data is taken from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is a continuous household survey, covering the UK with a sample size of approximately 320,000 respondents, and estimates are made on the basis of this for each council area. However, in some cases, particularly for district councils, the estimate is based on fairly small numbers of respondents. For this reason, the figure should not be considered as an exact one.

In 2021, the proportion of the population (aged 16-64) that hold a qualification at Level 3 or above for Sunderland was 43.3%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 55.0%.

Proportion of population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher (aged 16-64) (2021) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



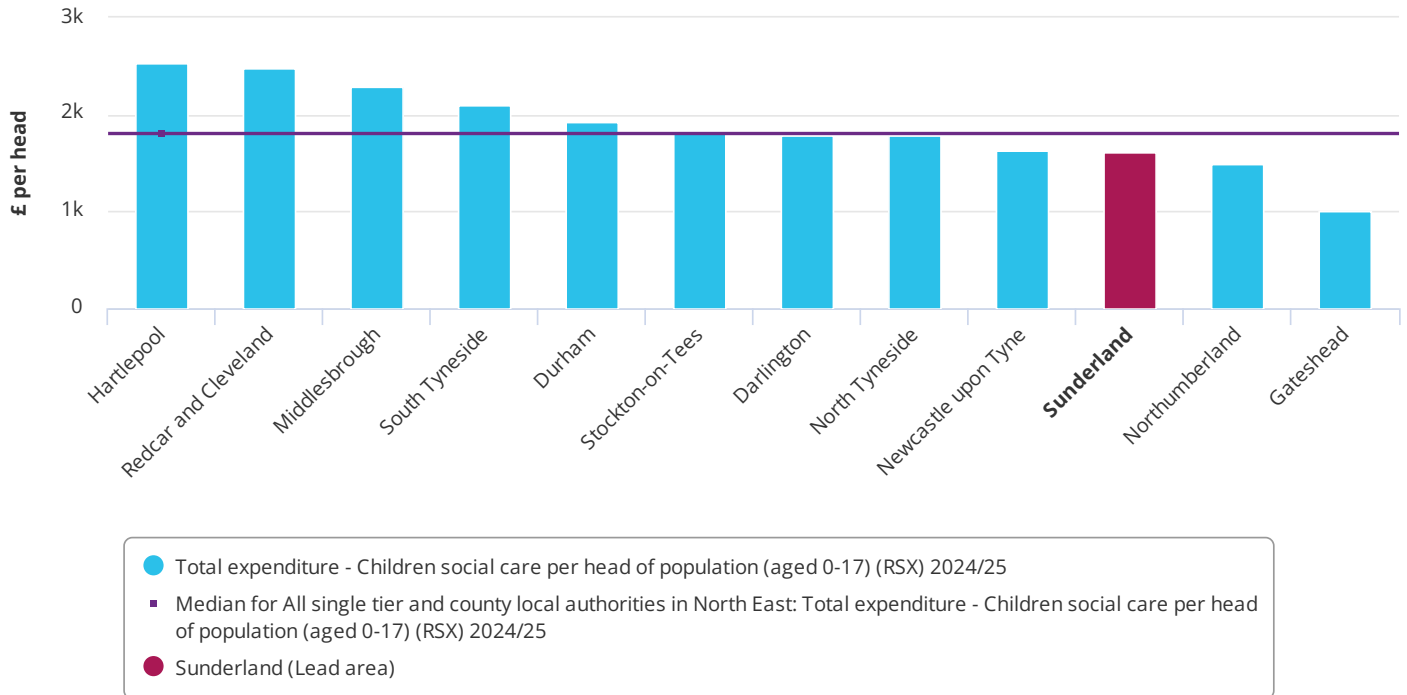
Source: Nomis, Annual Population Survey, [Discontinued] [Proportion of population aged 16-64 qualified to at least Level 3 or higher](#), **Data updated:** 19 Mar 2025

Children's services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on children's services, including on children's centres and early years, children looked after, other children and family services, family support services, youth justice, safeguarding children and young people, asylum seekers and services for young people. Expenditure is rated per child aged 0-17, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different numbers of children.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure on children's services was £1,614.41 in Sunderland, compared to £1,869.97, the mean for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Children social care per head of population (aged 0-17) (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



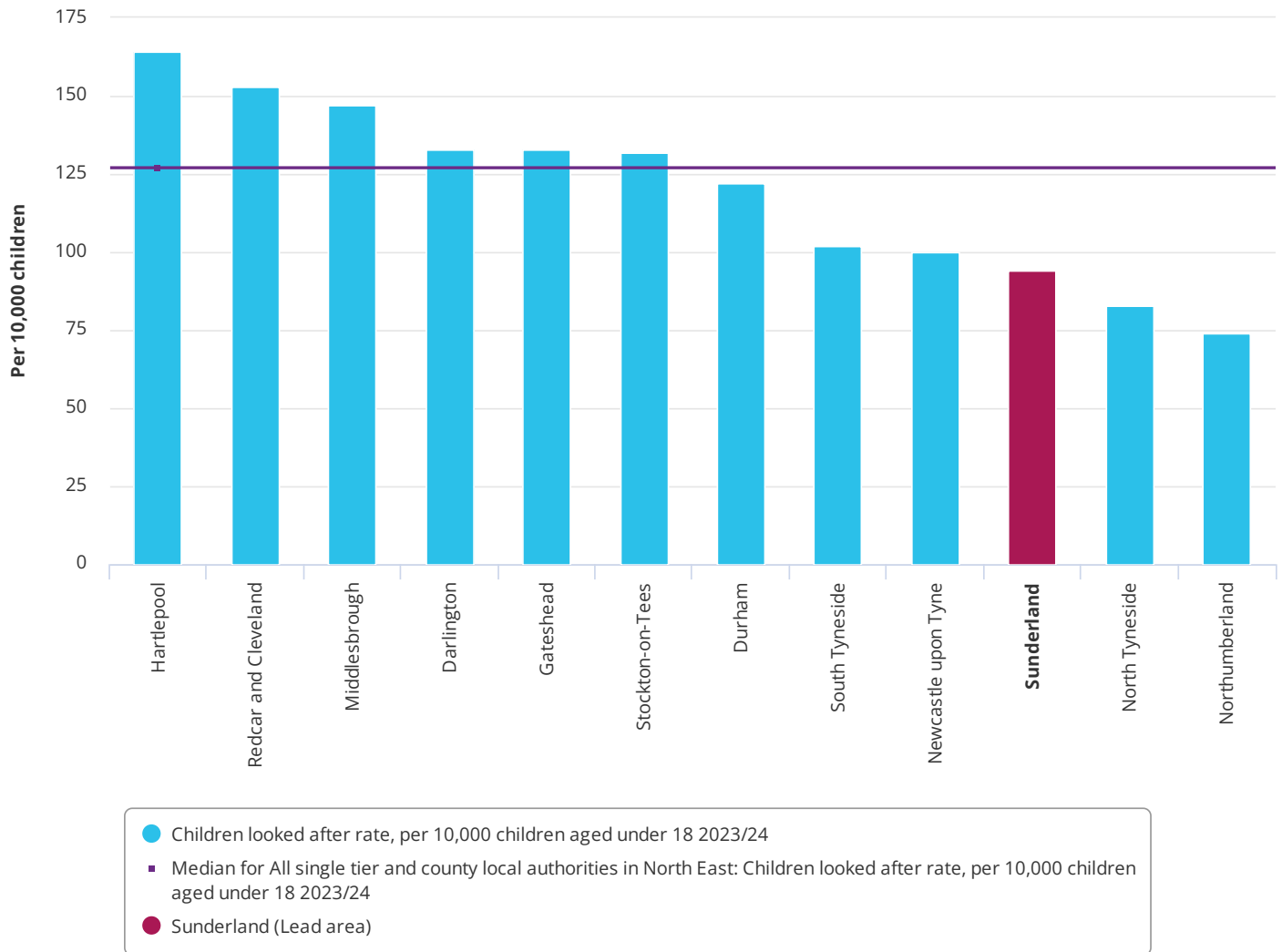
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Children social care per head of population \(aged 0-17\) \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

Children looked after

The children looked after rate is considered to have no polarity – it is neither good nor bad, the number is simply a fact. We do also know that some variation between local authorities can be explained by differences in the demographic and socioeconomic profile of each local authority. This is especially the case in relation to population size, deprivation and the proportion of households that are lone parent families. However, research also shows that other factors affect the rate which are within a council's control.

In 2023/24 there were 94 looked after children per 10,000 children under 18 in Sunderland. This compares to 70 per 10,000 in England and 120 on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Children looked after rate, per 10,000 children aged under 18 (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

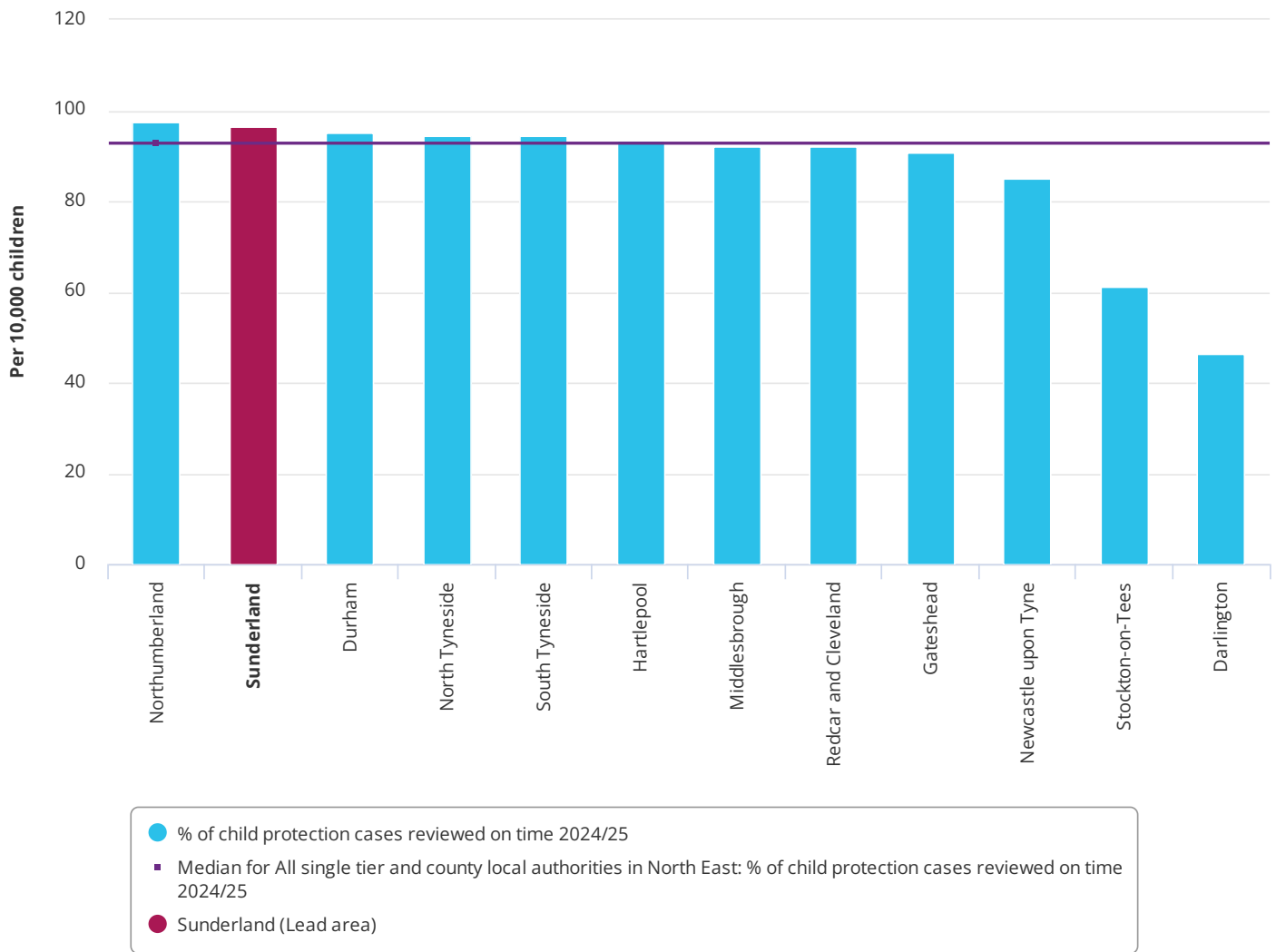


Source:

Department for Education, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers), [Children looked after rate, per 10,000 children aged under 18](#), **Data updated:** 25 Nov 2024

In 2024/25 96.4% of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales in Sunderland. This compares to 90.6% in England and 86.6% on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

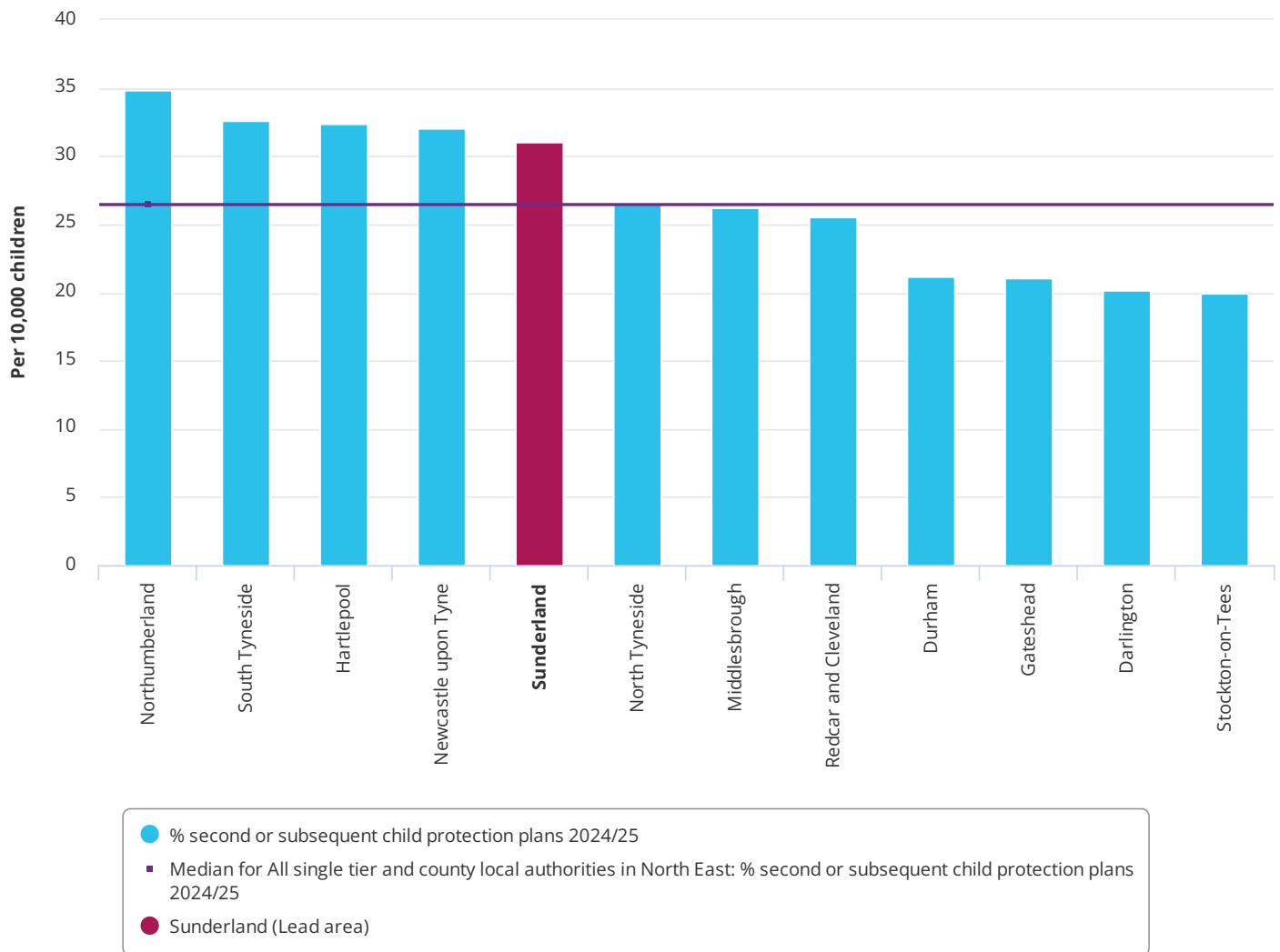
Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Department for Education, Children in need and child protection, [Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales](#), **Data updated:** 04 Nov 2025

In 2024/25 the percentage of children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time in Sunderland was 31.0% . This compares to 24.5% in England and 27.0% on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



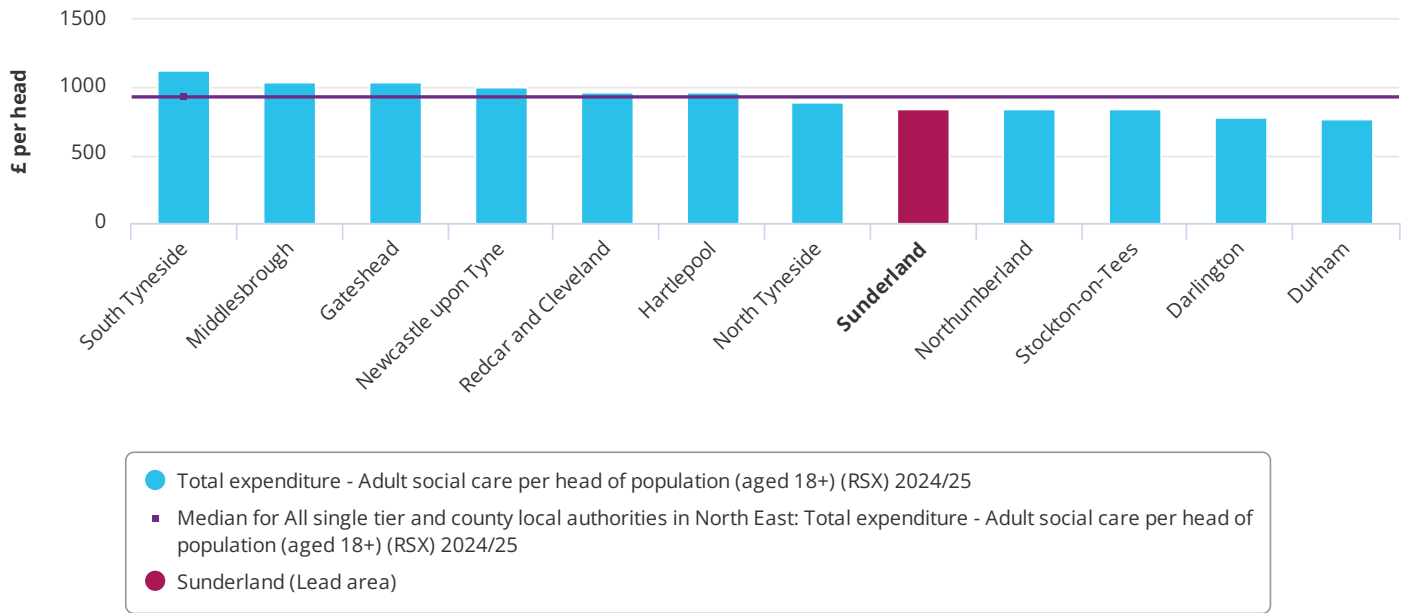
Source: Department for Education, Children in need and child protection, [Children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time \(%\)](#) , **Data updated:** 04 Nov 2025

Adult social care

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on adult social care, including on physical support, sensory support, learning disability support, mental health support, social support, assistive equipment and technology, social care activities, information and early intervention, commissioning and service delivery and disbursement payments to care providers. Expenditure is rated per adult, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different size populations.

In 2024/25 the total expenditure on adult social care per head of population was **£846.18** in Sunderland, compared to £927.19, the mean in All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Adult social care per head of population (aged 18+) (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Adult social care per head of population \(aged 18+\) \(RSX\)](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

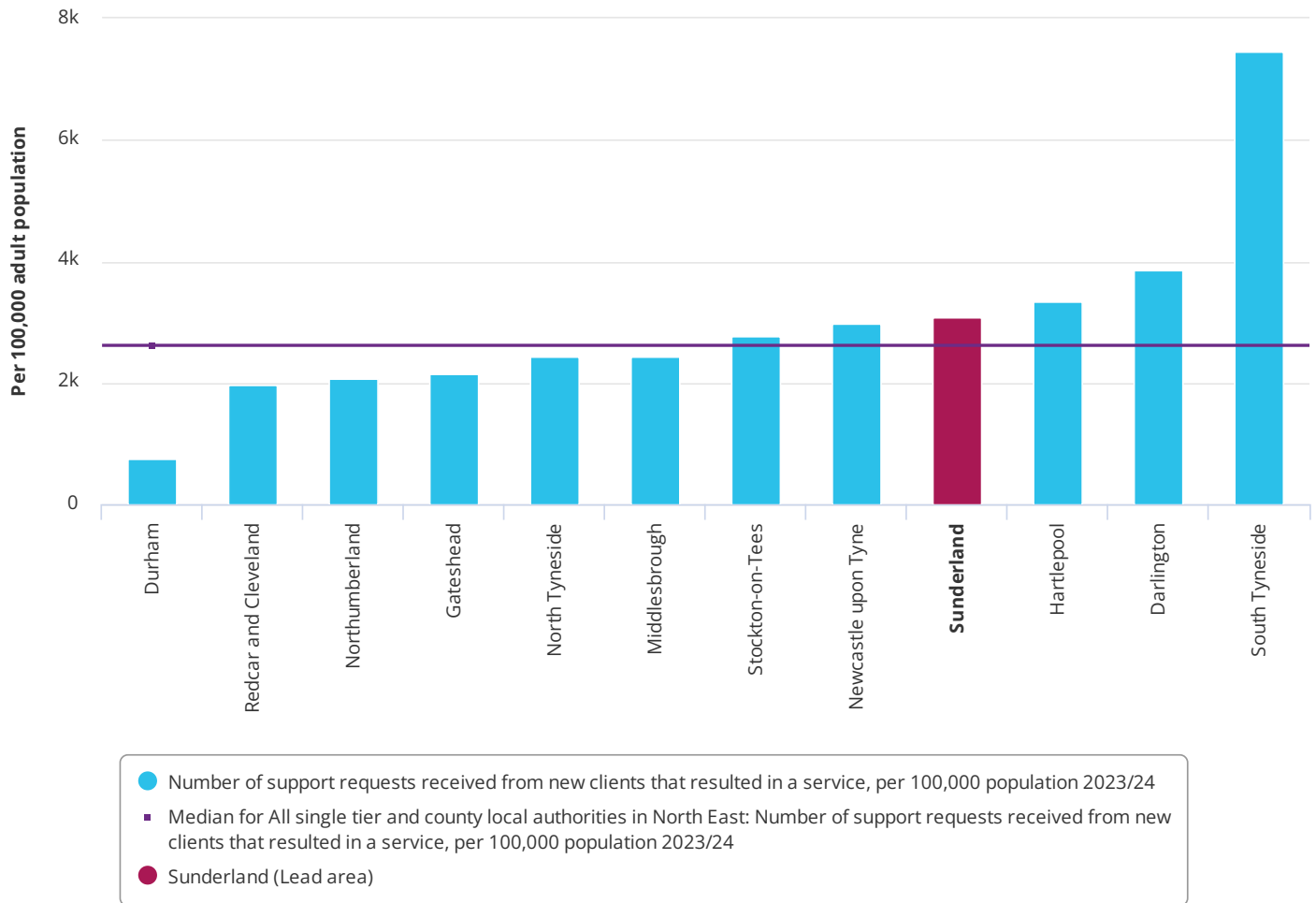
Requests resulting in a service

The chart below shows number of adult social care support requests received from new clients by the local authority that resulted in a service, per 100,000 population.

The metric provides a measure of the volume of care services being accessed in an area from the authority. It is a measure of local need, although it does exclude those who may have needs which are not severe enough to result in a service (who may be signposted to other services or provided with universal services). This is a contextual metric rather than an explicit measure of performance. It will be affected by demographic factors, such as the average care needs, wealth and age of the population.

In 2023/24, the number of support requests received from new clients that resulted in a service for Sunderland was 3,090 per 100,000 population, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East mean number of 2,606 per 100,000 population.

Number of support requests received from new clients that resulted in a service, per 100,000 population (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

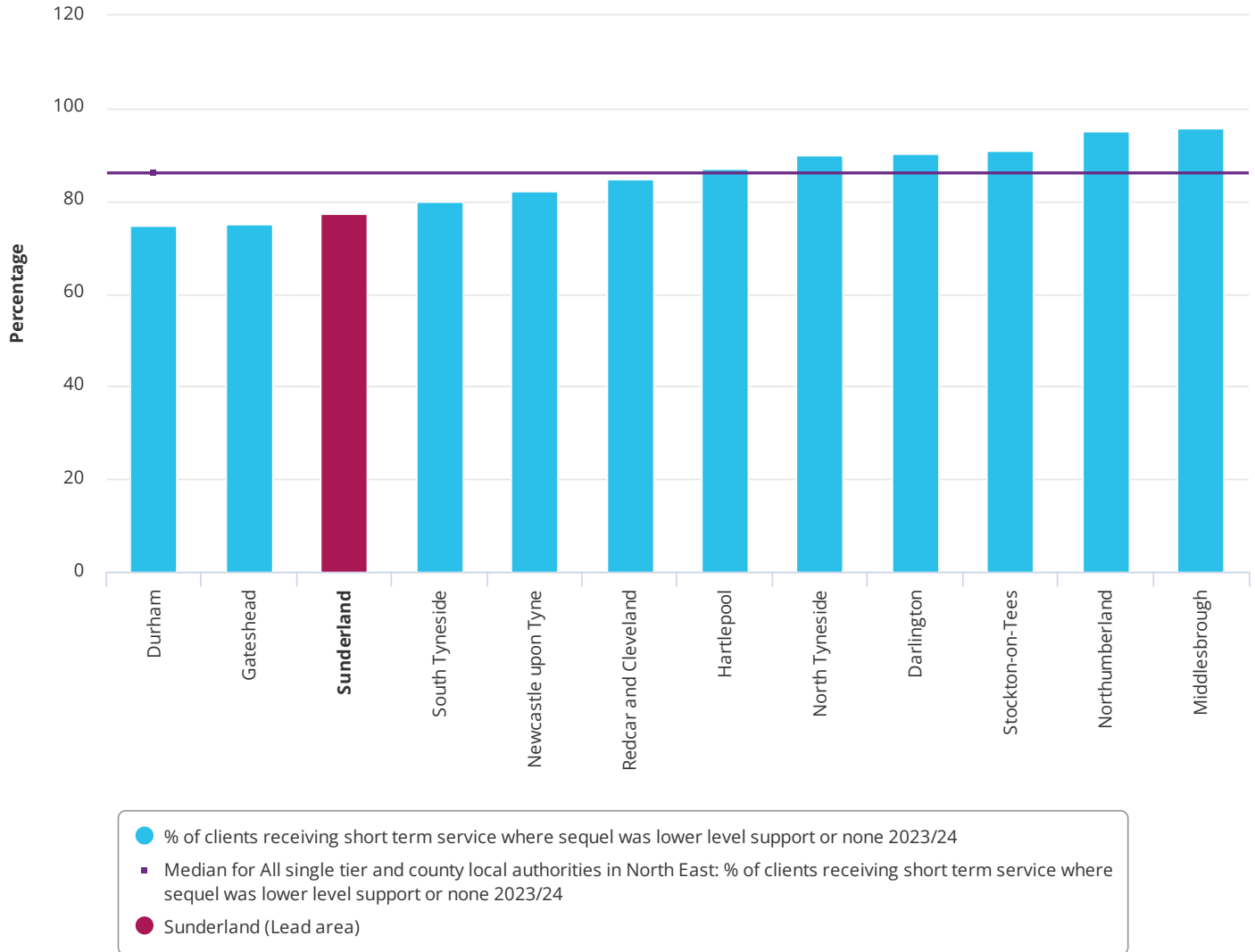
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A

Outcome of short-term services

This chart shows the proportion of new clients who received short-term services during the year, where no further request was made for ongoing support afterwards, or support was provided at a lower level. Since short-term services aim to re-able people and promote their independence, this measure aims to provide evidence of a good outcome in delaying dependency or supporting recovery – short-term support which results in no further need for services.

In 2023/24, the proportion of those that received short-term service, where no further request was made for ongoing support afterwards, or support of a lower level, for Sunderland was 77.4%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 86.0%.

Proportion of those that received short-term service during the year where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Proportion of those that received short-term service during the year where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

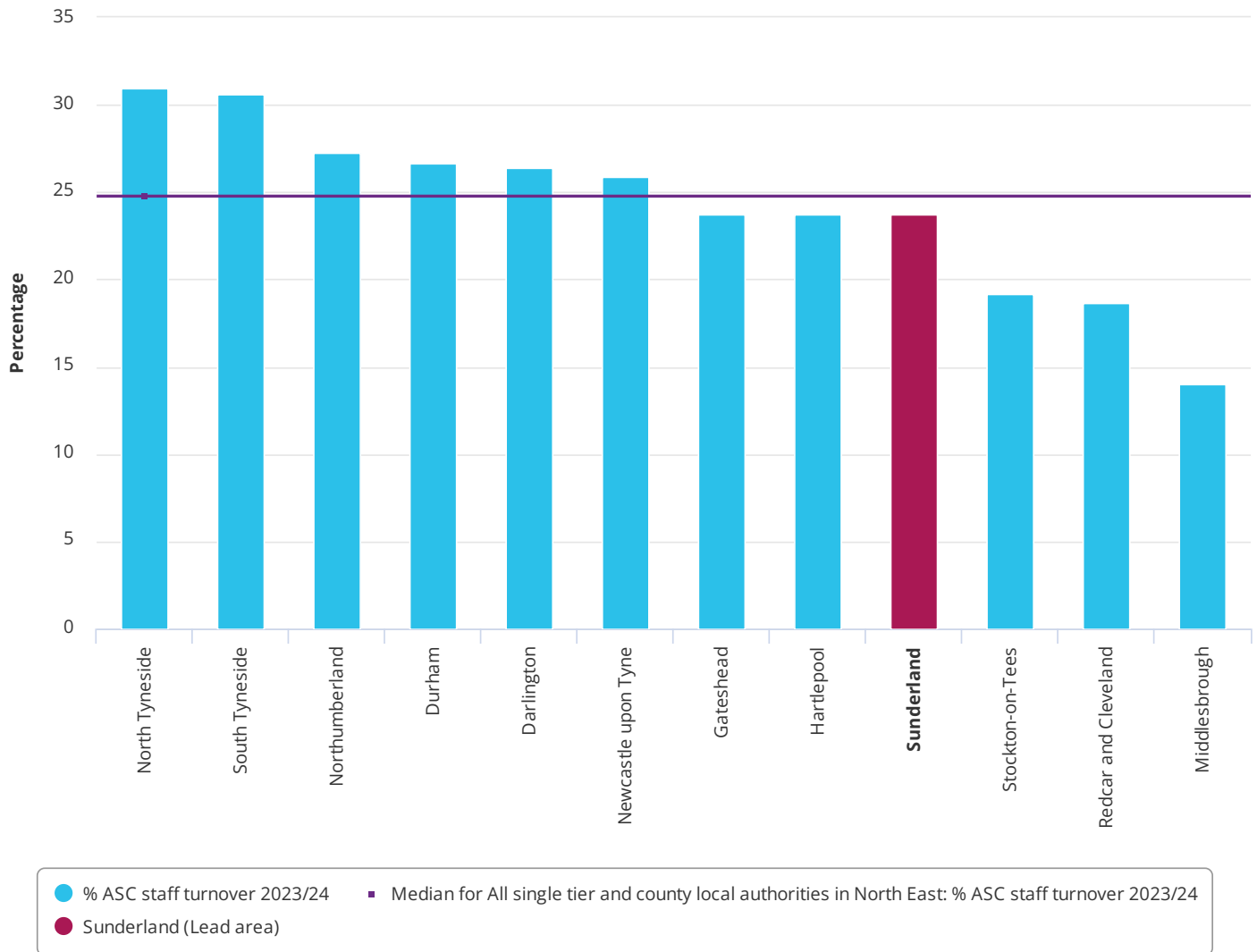
Workforce turnover rate

This metric shows the proportion of directly employed staff in the formal care workforce leaving their role in the past 12 months. It is the staff turnover rate for adult social care employees across both the independent and local authority sector and across all services (community care, day care, domiciliary care and residential care). It is calculated by expressing the number of leavers during the year as a percentage of employees.

This indicator is important because it is recognised that a lower turnover is more likely to lead to more effective continuity of care and retention of skills, thereby delivering a workforce more capable of delivering high quality care. A lower turnover rate could indicate better working conditions; but it is also affected by conditions in local labour markets which means that achieving a lower level of workforce turnover will be more challenging in some local authority areas than in others.

In 2023/24, the staff turnover rate for adult social care for Sunderland was 23.7%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median rate of 24.8%.

Staff turnover rate for adult social care (ASC), all sectors, all services (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Skills for care, Adult social care workforce estimates, [Staff turnover rate for adult social care \(ASC\), all sectors, all services](#) , **Data updated:** 21 Jan 2025

Adult social care services

The charts in this section relate to adult social care services for people whose care is partly or wholly supported by the local authority. It therefore excludes care for people which is wholly private and self-funded. Note that, in two-tier areas where there is both a county and a district authority, the county is responsible for adult social care services. Therefore, there will be no charts in this section for a district authority.

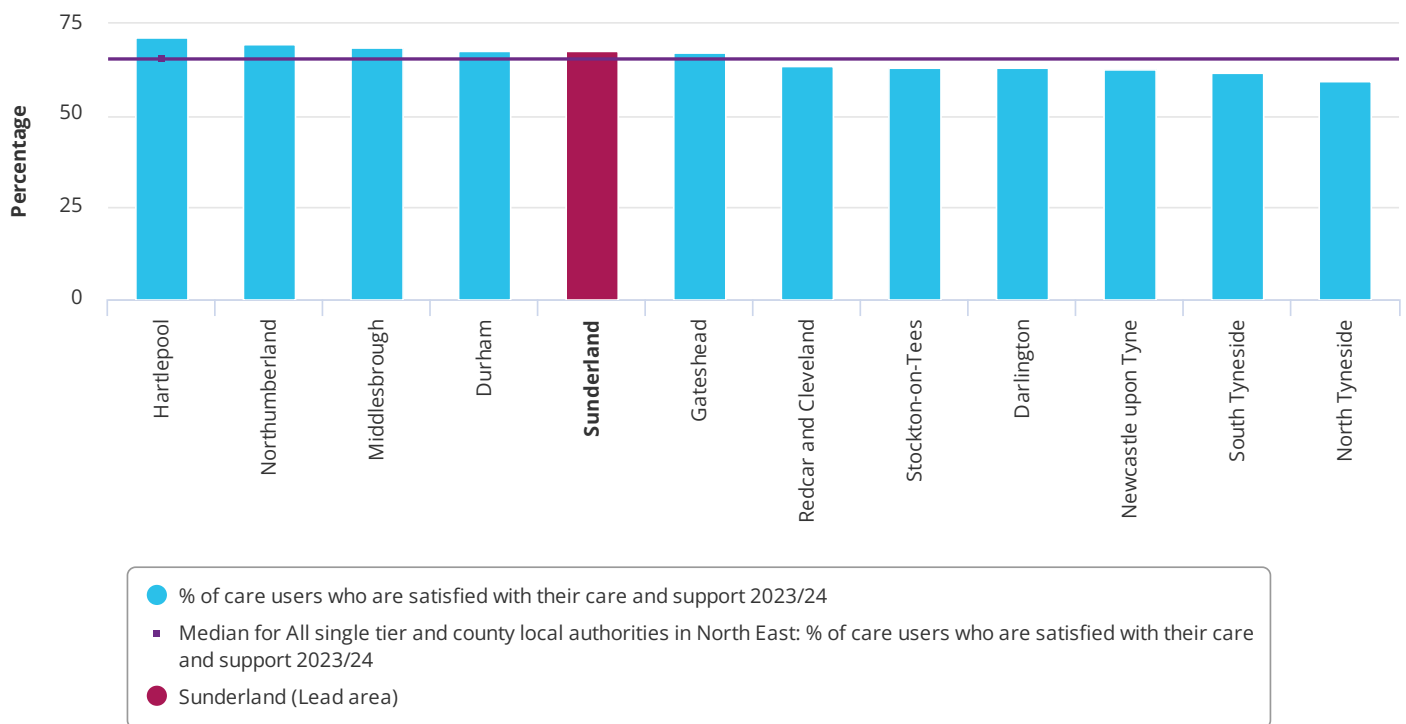
Some of the data in the charts is taken from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). In England, ASCOF brings together data to help government (both central and local) drive improvements in social care through the measurement of long-term outcomes for the individuals who use social care and their carers.

Whilst the data is helpful to measure performance, it should be noted that a significant part of the difference between councils can be due to characteristics of the local population that are beyond the control of the council. For example, an area with a well-performing care system could appear to have worse outcomes than another area with a poorer-performing system, because its population is less healthy/has higher needs for care and support.

However, the ASCOF data does provide councils with information so they can monitor the impact of local interventions and decisions: they can compare the 'before' and 'after' in their own authority for outcomes that matter most to people, and to identify their priorities for making improvements.

In 2023/24 there was 67.9 per cent overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support in the Sunderland area. This compares to 65.4 per cent in England and 65.5 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Proportion of Social Care Service users who are satisfied with their care and support (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East

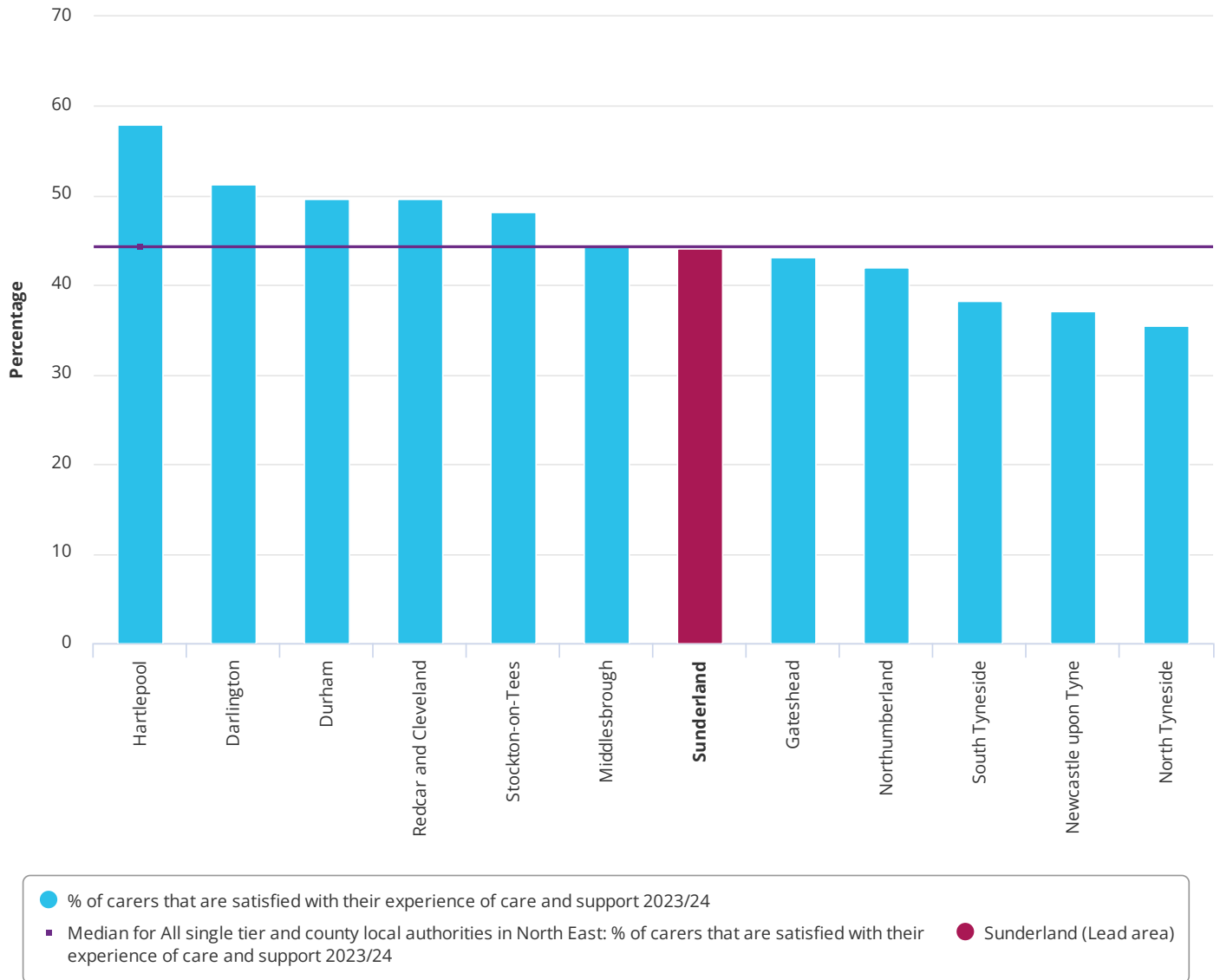


Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Proportion of Social Care Service users who are satisfied with their care and support](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

In 2023/24 there was 44.1 per cent overall satisfaction of carers with adult social services in the Sunderland area. This compares to 36.7 per cent in England and 45.1 per cent on average in your comparison group of All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

This only covers people receiving partly or wholly supported care from their local authority and not wholly private, self-funded care.

Proportion of carers that are satisfied with their experience of care and support (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Proportion of carers that are satisfied with their experience of care and support](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

Quality of life of carers

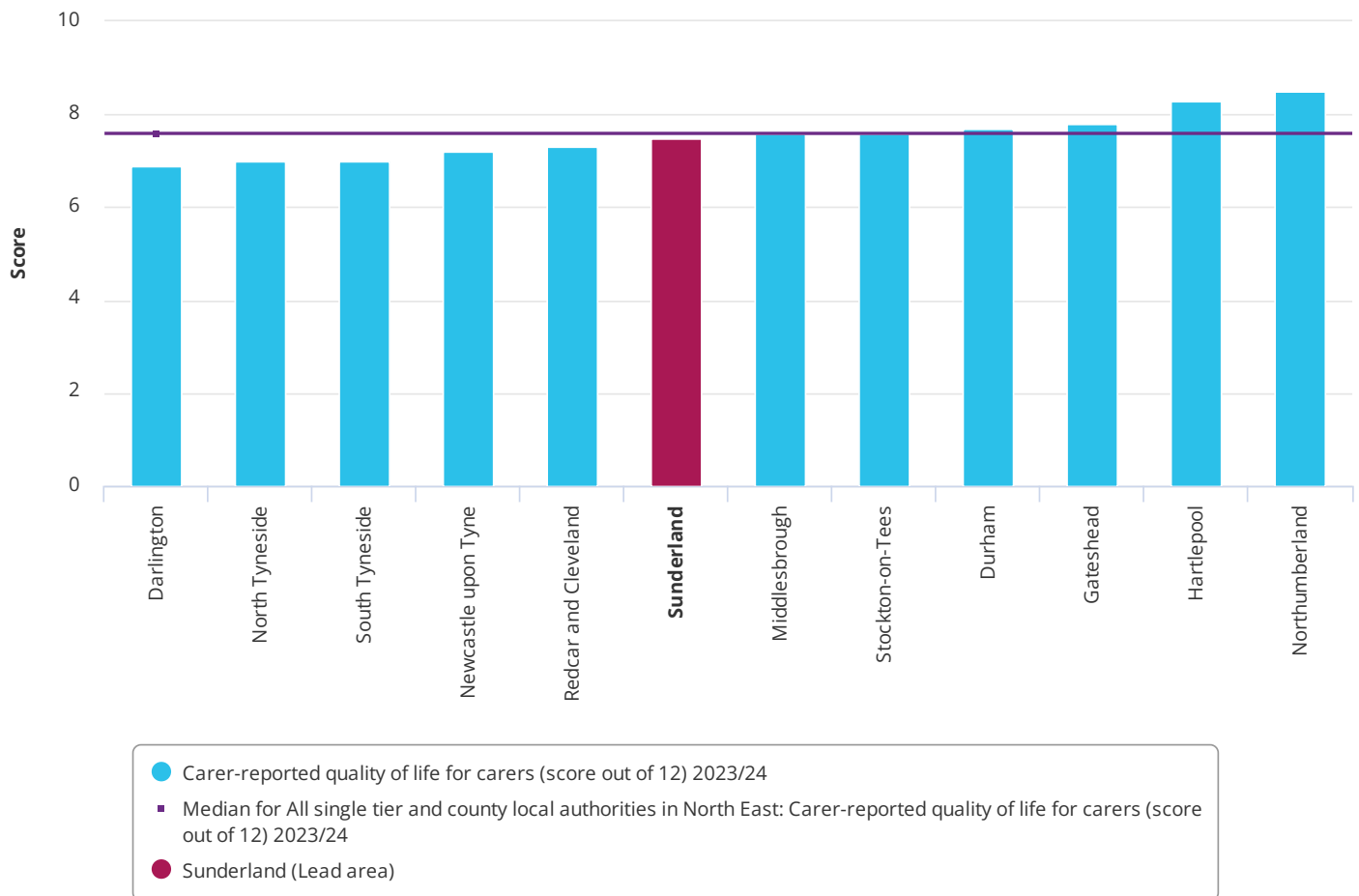
This measure gives an overarching view of the quality of life of carers, based on outcomes identified through research that carers themselves think are important, and to which adult social care contributes. It is drawn from the biennial Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE), which seeks the opinions of carers aged 18 or over who are caring for a person aged 18 or over, on a number of topics that are considered to be indicative of a balanced life alongside their unpaid caring role.

This measure combines carers' responses to six questions measuring different outcomes related to their overall quality of life. The questions relate to: occupation, control, personal care, safety, social participation and encouragement and support.

It should be noted that, while the measure gives an overall indication of the reported outcomes for carers, government statisticians note that it does not, at present, identify the specific contribution of councils' adult social care services towards those outcomes. Therefore, comparisons between authorities are not necessarily meaningful.

In 2023/24, the carer-reported quality of life for carers score for Sunderland was 7.5 out of 12, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median score of 7.6.

Carer-reported quality of life for carers (score out of 12) (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Carer-reported quality of life \(score out of 12\)](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

Quality of life of social care users

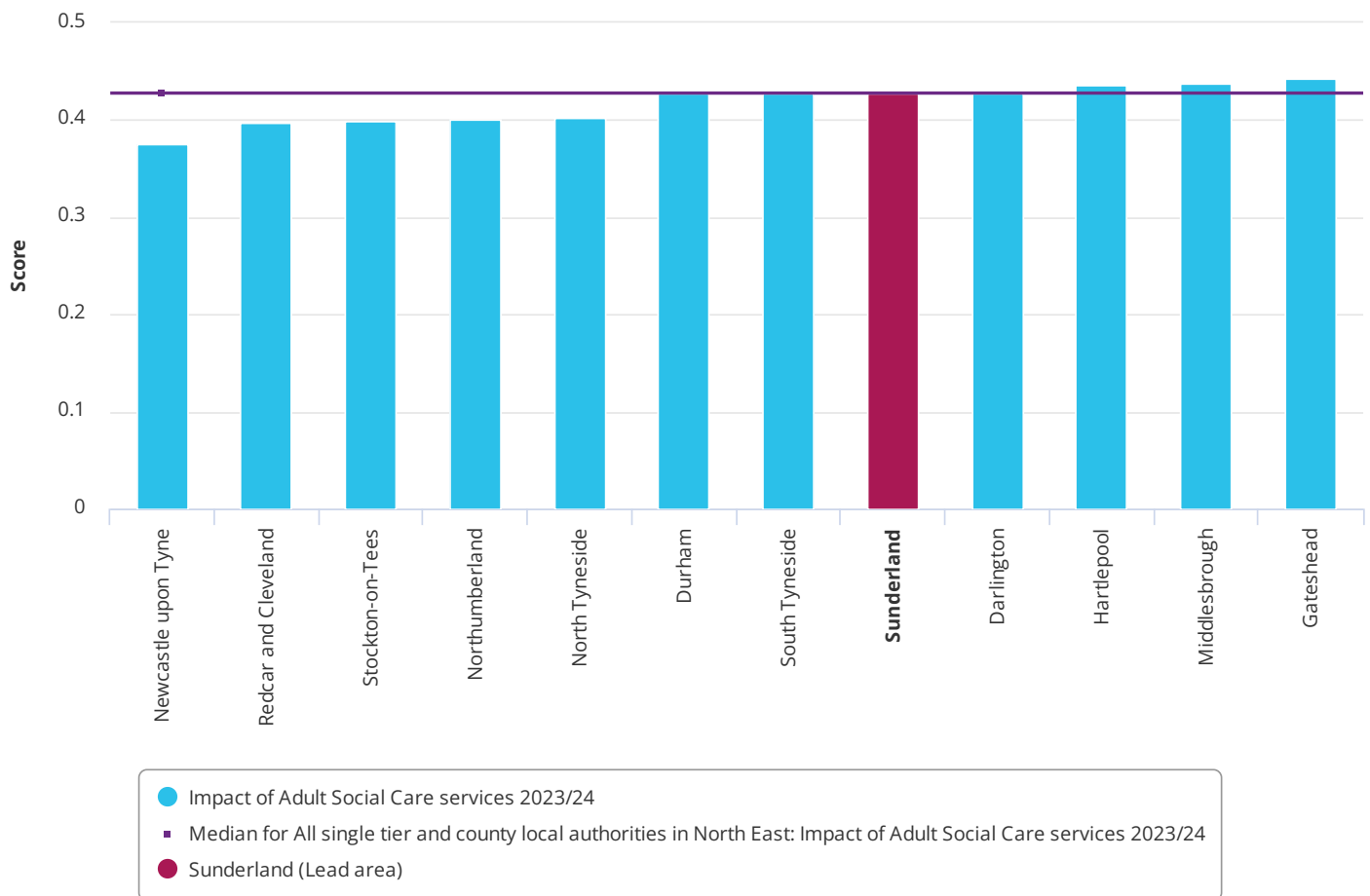
This measure gives an overarching view of the quality of life of people receiving adult social care services. It comes from the Adult Social Care Survey, in which people receiving care report for themselves about their quality of life in eight areas: control, dignity, personal care, food and nutrition, safety, occupation, social participation and accommodation. The measure has been adjusted on the basis of research to remove non service-related factors (underlying health and care needs, gender, and so on), in order to better reflect the impact of local authority adult social care services on an individual's social care-related quality of life.

The results are usually between -0.8 and +1, with the majority of local authorities usually scoring between 0.4 and 0.6. A higher value indicates a better quality of life. The eligible population for this survey covers all users of long-term support provided or commissioned by the local authority, who are aged 18 and over.

It is also known as the 'Adjusted social care-related quality of life measure' (1J), and should be viewed alongside ASCOF measure (1A) [Social care-related quality of life](#) which gives an overarching view of the quality of life of users of social care using all factors, not just those related to a local authority's role.

In 2023/24, the adjusted social care-related quality of life impact score for Sunderland was **0.427**, which was above the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median score of 0.427.

Adjusted Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Adjusted Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

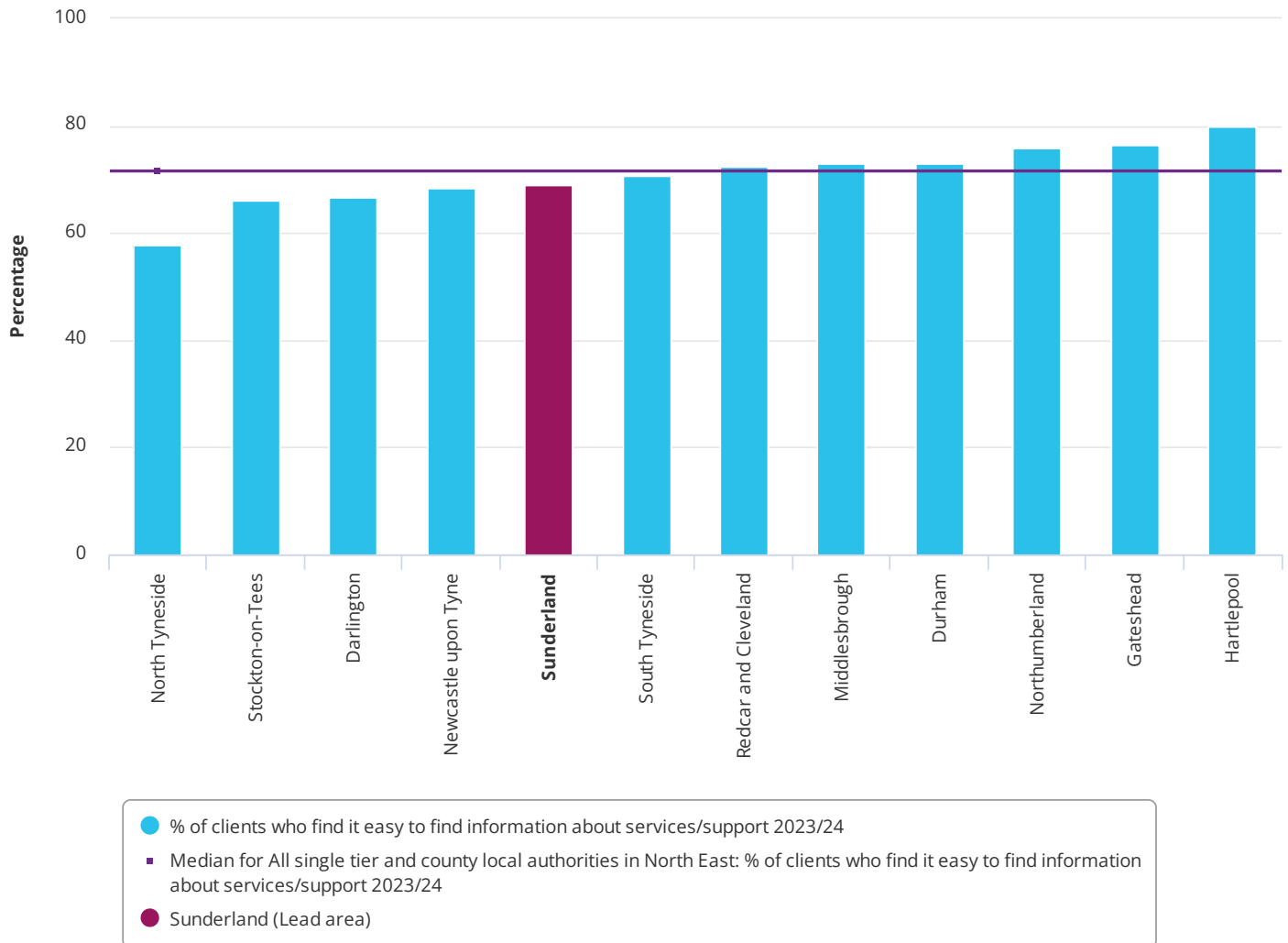
Ease of finding information: for people who use adult social care

It is important that people know what social care choices are available to them locally, what they are entitled to, and who to contact when they need help. This is because information is a key factor in early intervention and reducing dependency. Improved and/or more information can help people who use adult social care have greater choice and control over their lives. In turn, this may help to sustain caring relationships through, for example, reduction in stress, improved welfare and physical health improvements.

The chart below shows social services users' experience of access to information and advice about social care in the past year. It was taken from the Adult Social Care Survey, which allows people to say how easy or difficult it was to find information and advice about support, services or benefits.

In 2023/24, the proportion of people who use care services and find it easy to find information about services, support or benefits for Sunderland was 68.9%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 71.5%.

Proportion of people who use care services who find it easy to find information about services/support (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

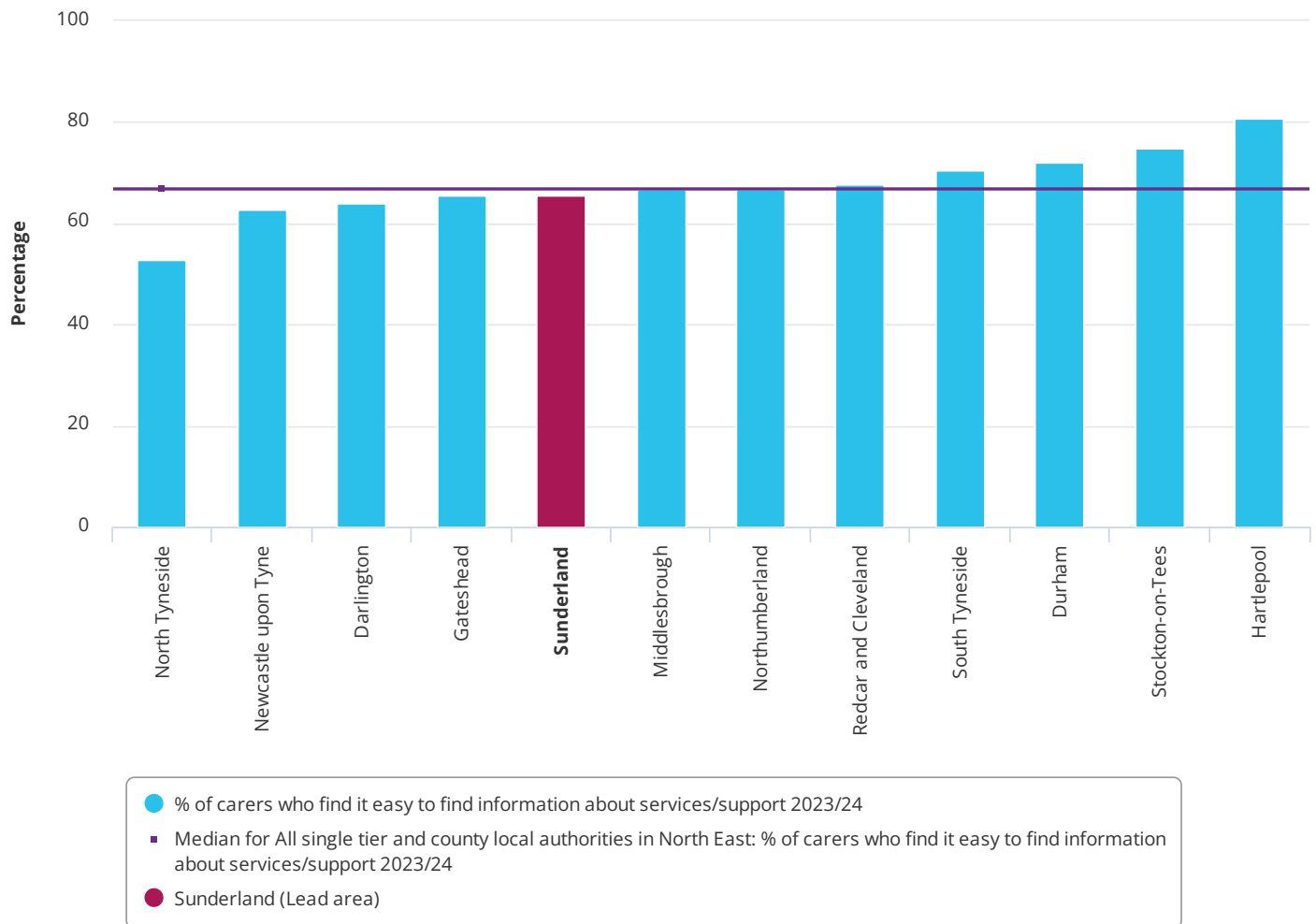
Ease of finding information: for carers of people who use adult social care

As for users of social care services, it is important that carers know what social care choices are available to them locally, what they are entitled to, and who to contact when they need help. This is because information is a key factor in early intervention and reducing dependency. Improved and/or more information can help carers and the people they support have greater choice and control over their lives. In turn, this may help to sustain caring relationships through, for example, reduction in stress, improved welfare and physical health improvements.

The chart below shows the experience of carers in accessing information and advice about social care in the past year. It was taken from the Carers Survey, which allows people to say how easy or difficult it was to find information and advice about support, services or benefits.

In 2023/24, the proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support for Sunderland was 65.6%, which was below the All single tier and county local authorities in North East median proportion of 66.8%.

Proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about services/support (2023/24) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



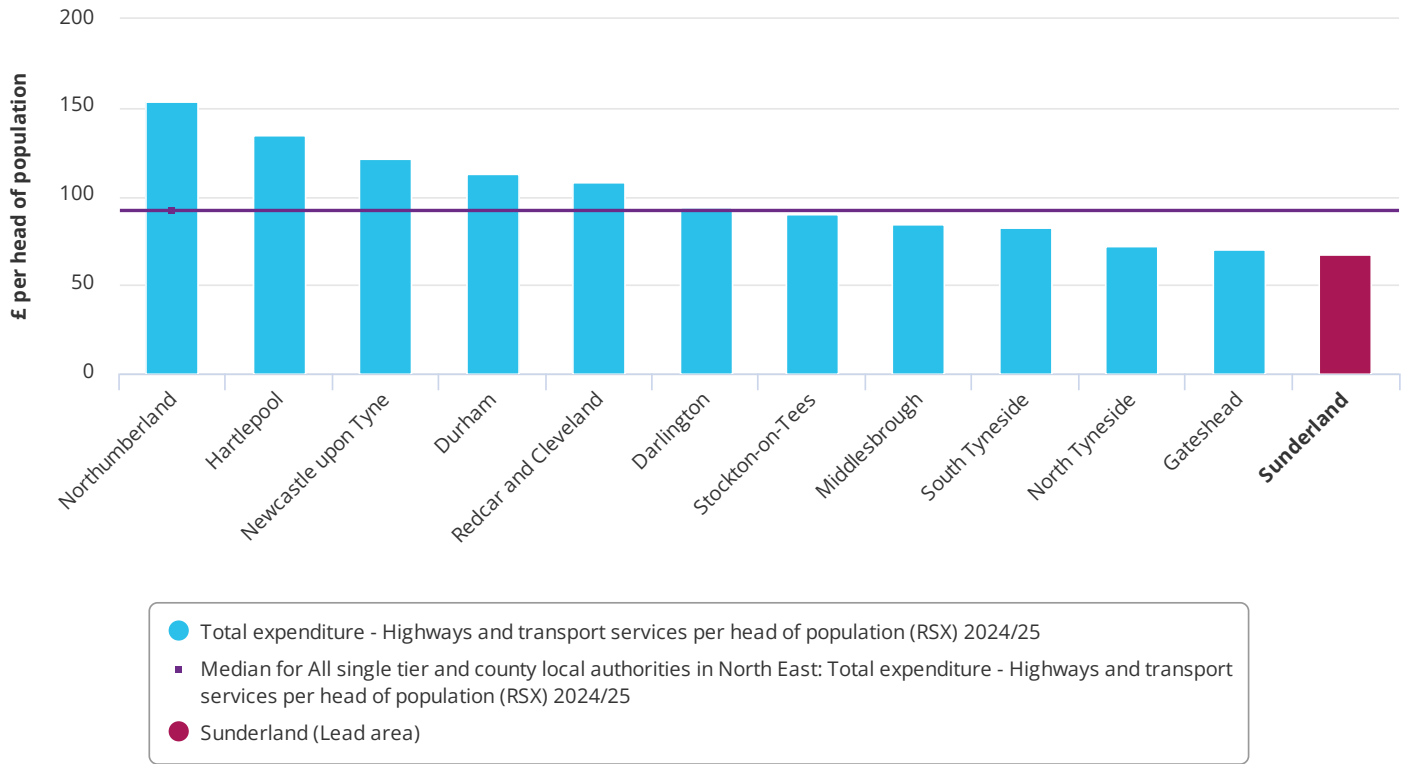
Source: NHS England, Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, [The proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support](#), **Data updated:** 19 Dec 2024

Roads

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on highways and transport services, including on transport planning/policy/strategy, structural maintenance, environmental/safety/routine maintenance, winter service, street lighting (including energy costs), traffic management and road safety, parking services, public transport (including concessionary fares) and airports/harbours/toll facilities. Expenditure is rated per adult, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different size populations.

In 2024/25 the expenditure per head on highways and transport services was £67.13 in Sunderland, compared to £99.22, mean for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Total expenditure - Highways and transport services per head of population (RSX) (2024/25) for All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Highways and transport services per head of population \(RSX\)](#), **Data updated:** 11 Nov 2025

The remainder of the charts in the section relate to principal and minor roads where maintenance should be considered. The condition and maintenance of roads is always an issue of public concern.

There are a number of points to note when looking at the data about road condition, and particularly when making comparisons between councils. Roads are damaged when water seeps into cracks caused by wear from traffic which then results in further deterioration. The UK's wet and cold climate exacerbates the problem, especially in winter by the freeze-thaw cycle. The weather has varying impacts across the country, with some areas more prone to frequent flooding and/or icing up. Underpinning road structure will also have an impact on how resilient the road surface is. Roads in urban and inner-city areas with heavy traffic flows and heavy vehicles such as buses and lorries experience more wear and tear, especially if the infrastructure is aging and subject to patchwork repairs and replacement of pipes and cables.

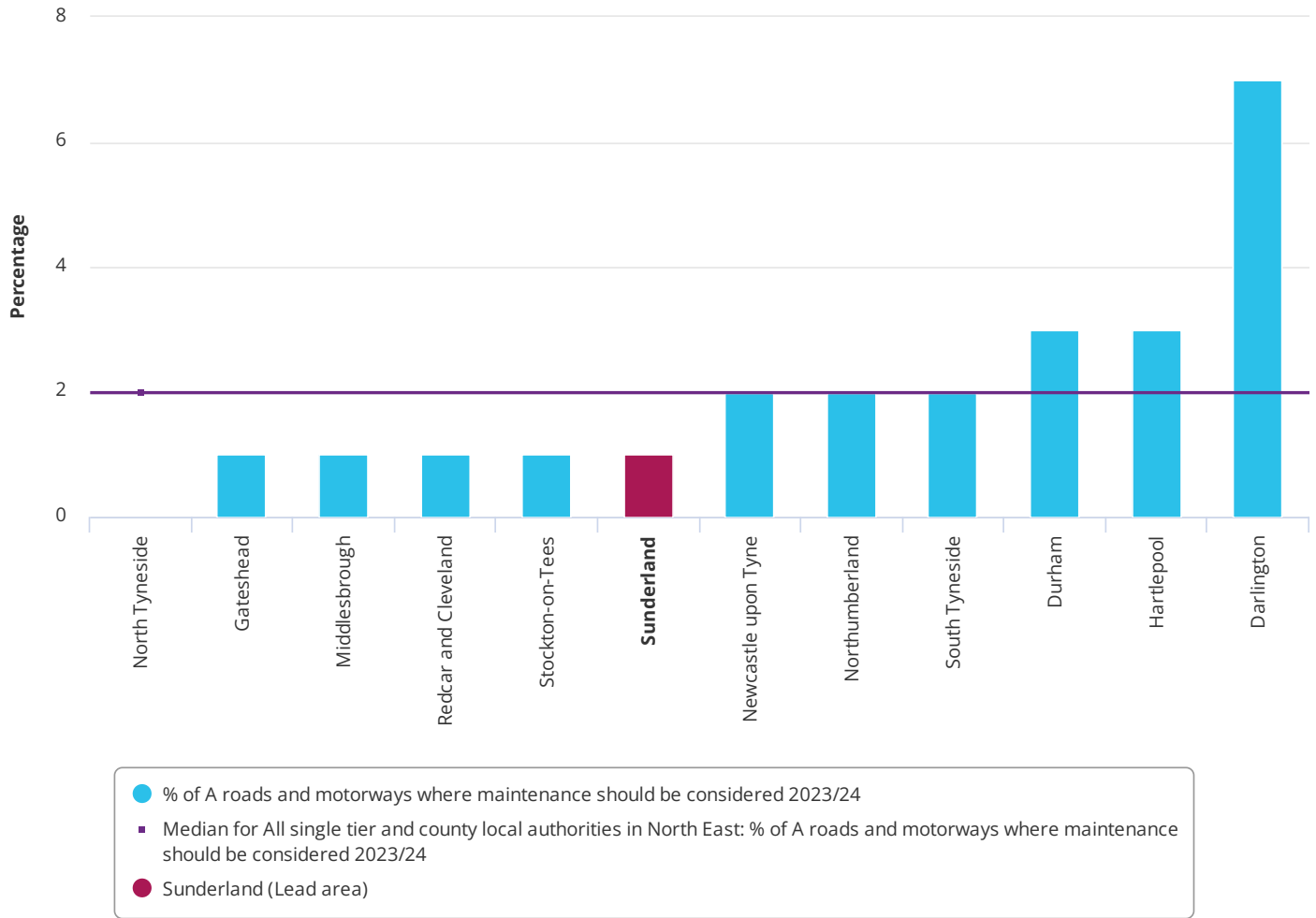
In addition, areas with low resident populations, but with high inflows of people or traffic, may have artificially high rates because the at-risk resident population is not an accurate measure of exposure to transport: for example, the City of London and sparsely populated rural areas with high numbers of visitors or through traffic.

The road metrics also do not take into account other highways assets that require maintenance, such as bridges and drainage systems. These may suck in additional resources, which makes it misleading to compare councils with many of those additional assets to maintain with those councils that do not have them.

Local authority A roads that should be considered for maintenance

In 2023/24 the percentage of A roads that should be considered for maintenance in Sunderland was 1%, compared to the mean of 2% for All single tier and county local authorities in North East.

Percentage of local authority A roads that should be considered for maintenance (2023/24) for Sunderland & All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source:

Department for Transport, Road conditions statistics, [Principal roads where maintenance should be considered](#), Data updated: 20 Dec 2024

Local authority B and C roads that should be considered for maintenance

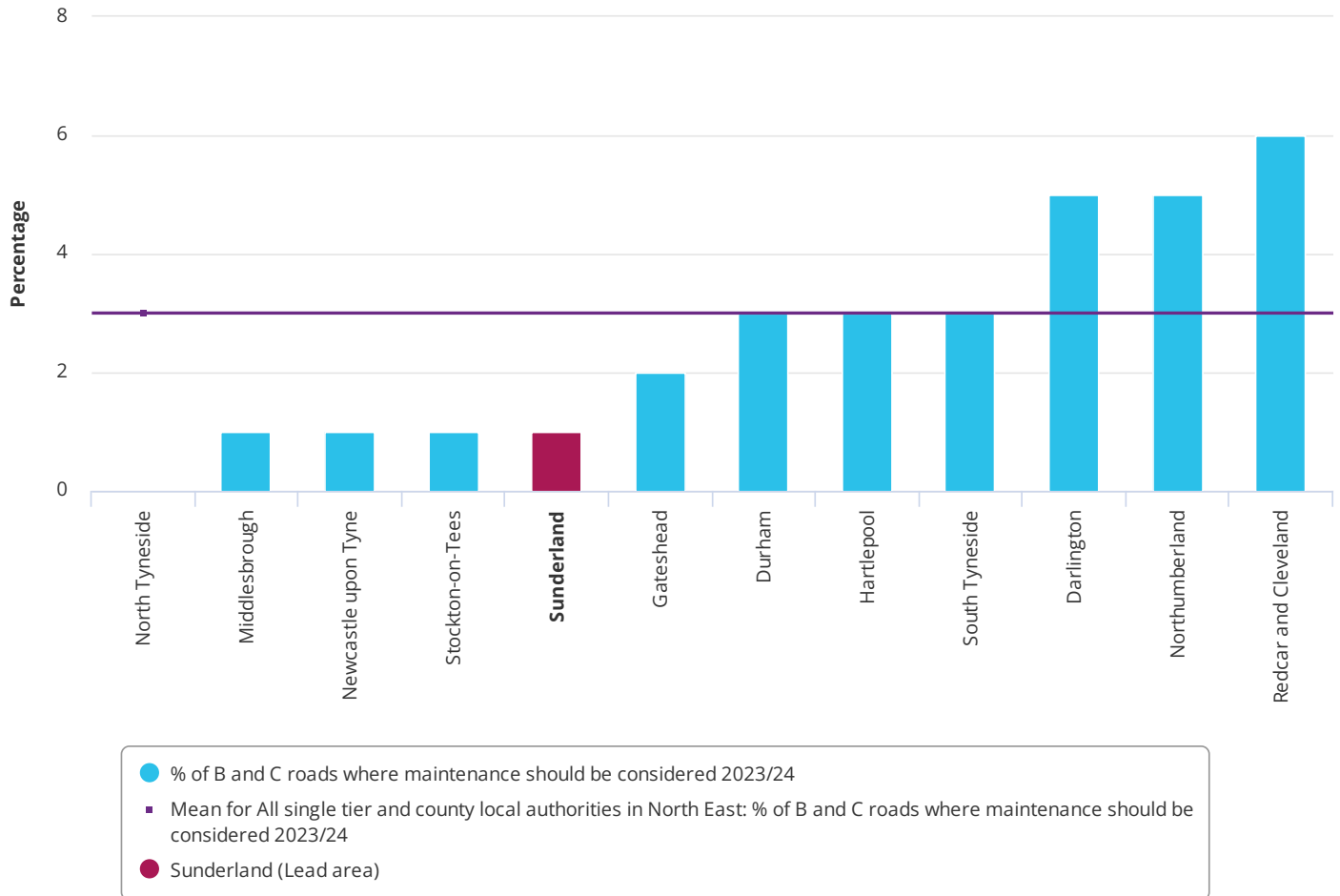
This is the percentage of the local authority's B-road and C-road carriageways where maintenance should be considered. 'B' roads in urban areas can have relatively high traffic flows but are not regarded as being as significant as 'A' roads, despite the fact that in some cases they have a similar volume of traffic. They are useful distributor roads, often between towns or villages. 'B' roads in rural areas often have markedly low traffic flows compared with their 'A' road counterparts or 'B' roads in towns.

'C' roads are regarded by some as of lesser importance than either 'B' or 'A' roads, and generally have only one carriageway of two lanes and carry less traffic. They also can have low traffic flows in rural areas.

These variations by sparsity and volume of traffic should be taken into account when the road maintenance metrics are compared between councils.

In 2023/24 the percentage of local authority B and C roads that should be considered for maintenance in Sunderland was 1%, compared with the average in All single tier and county local authorities in North East of 3%.

Percentage of local authority B and C roads that should be considered for maintenance (2023/24) for Sunderland & All single tier and county local authorities in North East



Source: Department for Transport, Road conditions statistics, [Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered](#), **Data updated:** 20 Dec 2024

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- [CIPFA Statistical Information Services - Public Library Statistic](#)
- [Calculated by LGI - Calculated metric types](#)
- [Department for Education - Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England \(including adoption and care leavers\)](#)
- [Department for Education - Children in need and child protection](#)
- [Department for Education - Further education and skills](#)
- [Department for Education - Key stage 4 performance](#)
- [Department for Education - NEET and participation](#)
- [Department for Education - Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England](#)
- [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Local authority collected waste management](#)
- [Department for Transport - Road conditions statistics](#)
- [Department for Work and Pensions - Housing Benefit: statistics on speed of processing \(SoP\)](#)
- [Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman - Local government complaint reviews](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Budgeted Revenue Accounts](#)
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- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Live tables on affordable housing supply](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Local Authority Housing Statistics \(LAHS\)](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Planning Statistics - Quality of decisions](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Revenue Outturn \(RSX\)](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Revenue outturn cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning services \(RO5\)](#)
- [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Statutory homelessness live tables](#)
- [NHS England - Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England](#)
- [Nomis - Annual Population Survey](#)
- [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(OHID\) - Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data](#)
- [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(OHID\) - Smoking Profile](#)
- [Office for National Statistics - Business Demography](#)
- [Office for National Statistics - Census](#)
- [Office for National Statistics - Housing affordability in England and Wales](#)
- [Office for National Statistics - Local police recorded crime data](#)
- [Skills for care - Adult social care workforce estimates](#)

